



LEGION OF
SUPER-HEROES

23

OCT 91

LEGION OF SUPER-HEROES

the
quiet
darkness:
PART III



GORDON
GIFFEN
T & M BIERBAUM
PEARSON
CHRISTIAN

G²

IN ORBIT
OVER ZUUN.



ANY
MORE
BRIGHT
IDEAS?



THIS ISN'T "MARTIAL
LAW," JO. THESE GUYS ARE
PREPARED FOR A
SMALL WAR.

I THOUGHT
YOU SAID
EVERYTHING
WAS TAKEN
CARE OF

MY
MISTAKE
...SO
SUE ME.

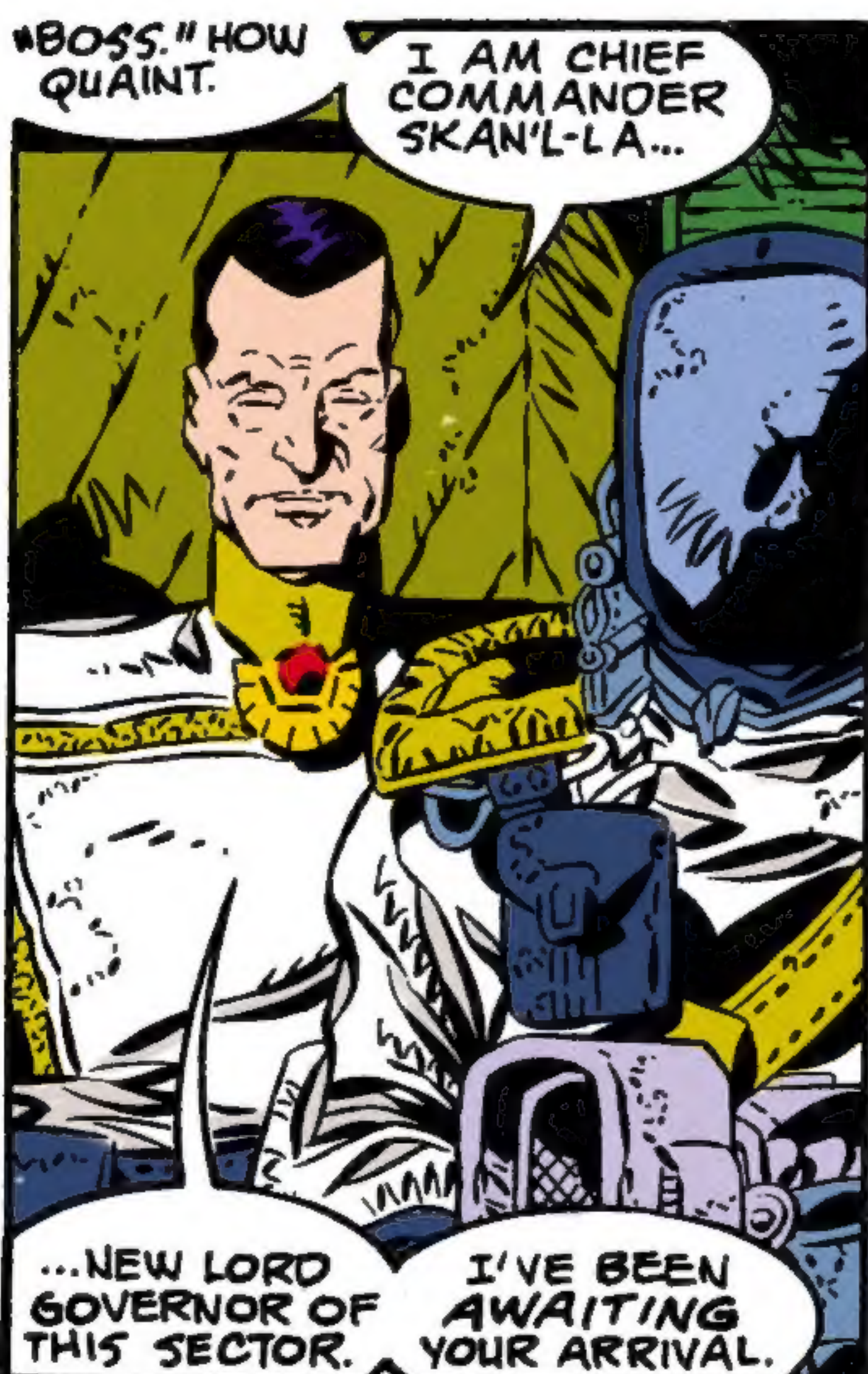


I DON'T THINK A
LAWSUIT IS EXACTLY
WHAT THEY HAD
IN MIND.

I WONDER
WHO'S IN CHARGE
ON THIS TUB?



OH, CRIPES!
SPOKE TOO SOON.
LOOKS LIKE THEIR
BOSS IS HERE.



"BOSS." HOW
QUAINT.

I AM CHIEF
COMMANDER
SKAN'L-LA...

...NEW LORD
GOVERNOR OF
THIS SECTOR.

I'VE BEEN
AWAITING
YOUR ARRIVAL.



GREAT! THEN MAYBE
YOU CAN HELP US. WE'VE
GOT A COUPLE OF FRIENDS
WAITING FOR US DOWN ON
ZUUN, AND--

YOUR "FRIENDS"
ARE OF NO
CONSEQUENCE.



MY ORDERS ARE
TO PEACEFULLY
DETAIN YOU.

I TRUST
YOU WILL
COOPERATE.



THE SURFACE
OF ZUUN.

LOBO?!
THAT'S NOT
POSSIBLE.

YOU'RE
LOOKIN'
AT 'IM,
GREENIE!

THE MAIN
MAN HIMSELF!

NO, I'M SORRY.
THERE HAS TO
BE ANOTHER
EXPLANATION.

HEY, Y'KNOW,
THIS GRUB AIN'T
HALF BAD. SLURP-
COULD USE A
LITTLE PEPPER,
THOUGH.

NOW, CORRECT ME
IF I'M WRONG... BUT
YOU SAID YOU WERE
LOOKING FOR
SOMEONE?

YEAH... I'M
"LOOKIN'" FOR
SOMEONE --

--I'M "LOOKIN'"
FOR YOU.

WELL, I HATE TO EAT AND
RUN SLURP-SMACK- BUT
I'VE GOTTA GET BACK
TO WORK.

OKAY...
WHICH ONE
OF YOU IS ARIA?

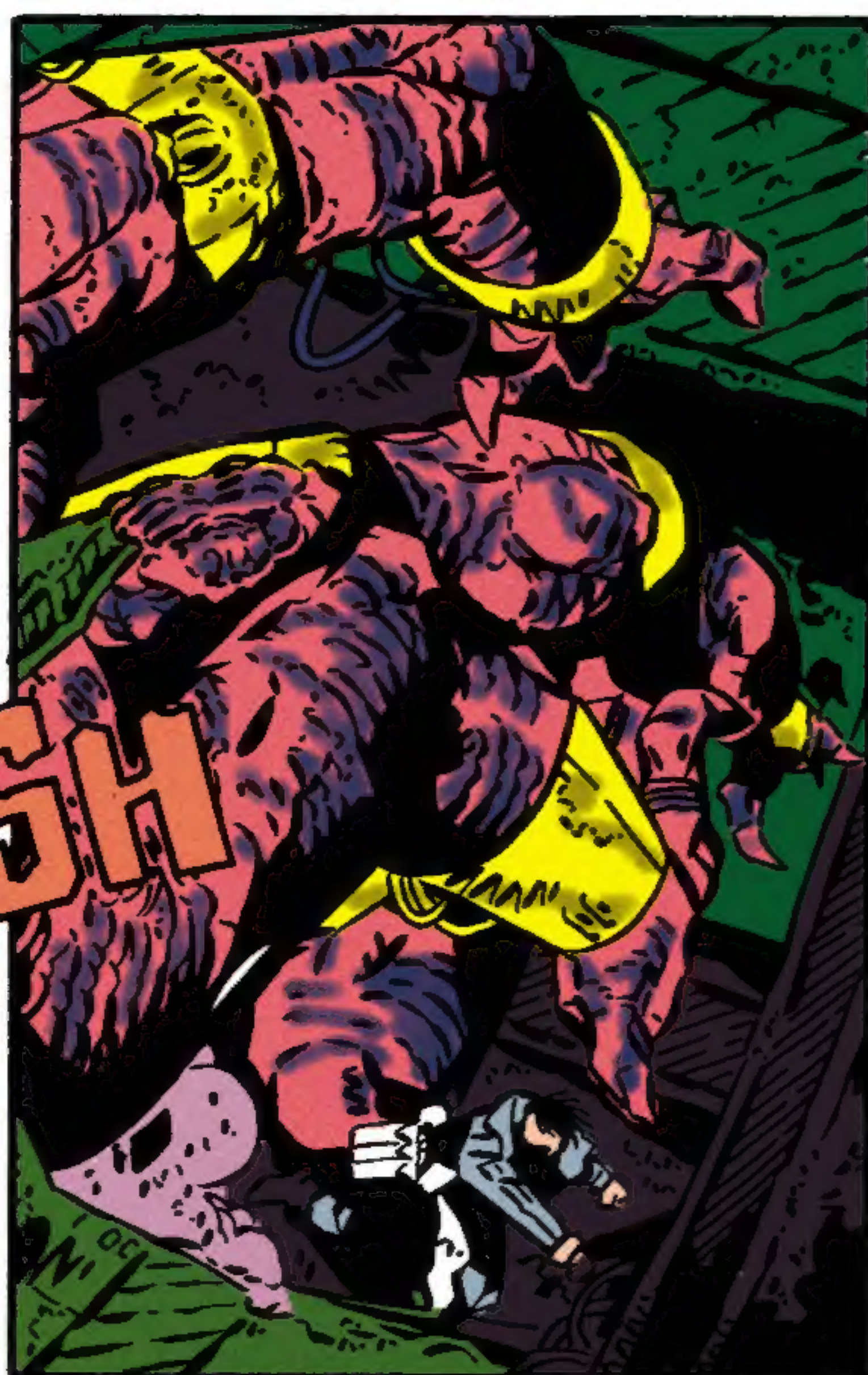
LORI, STOP
STARIN'
AT ME!

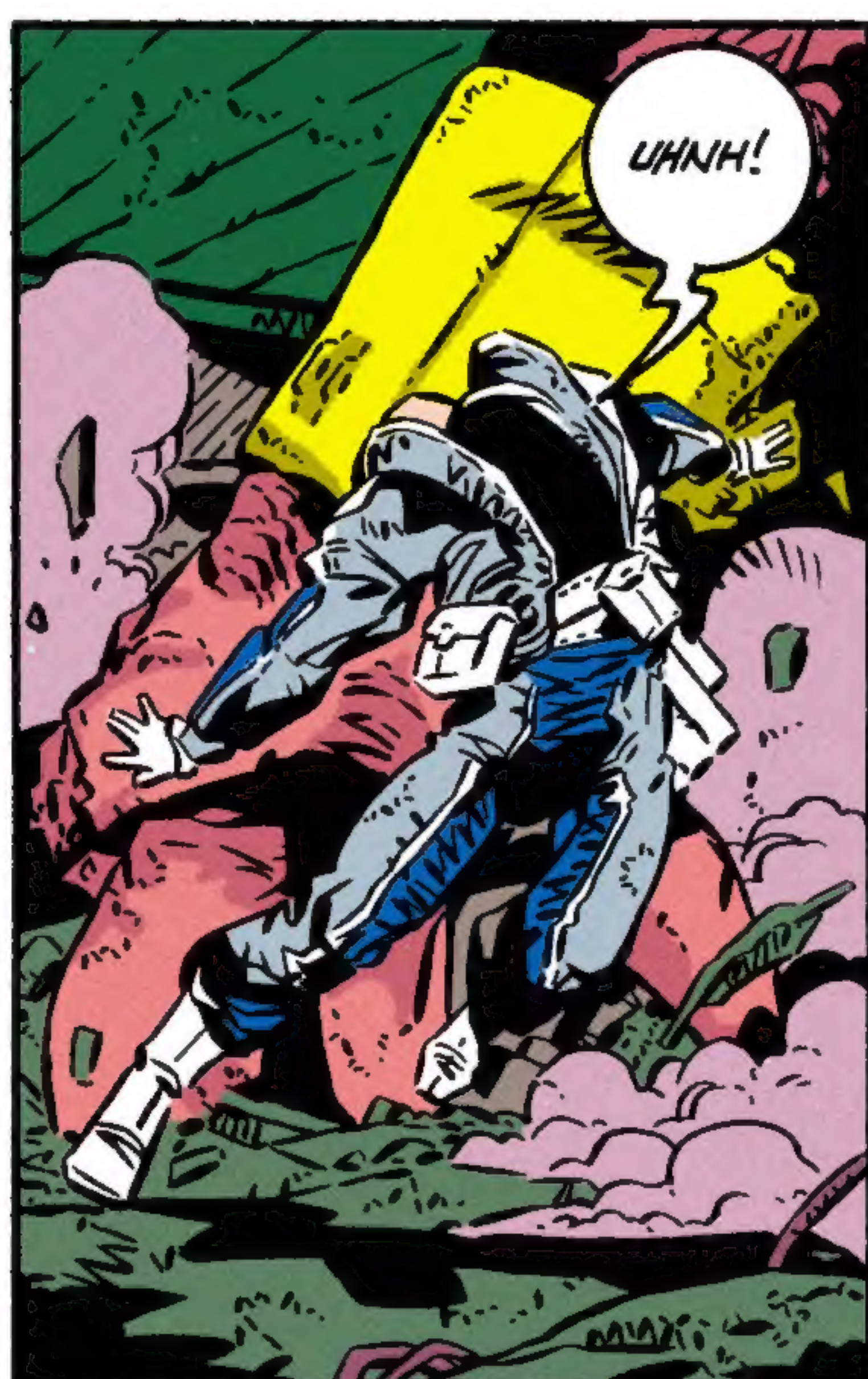
THANKS,
LORI.

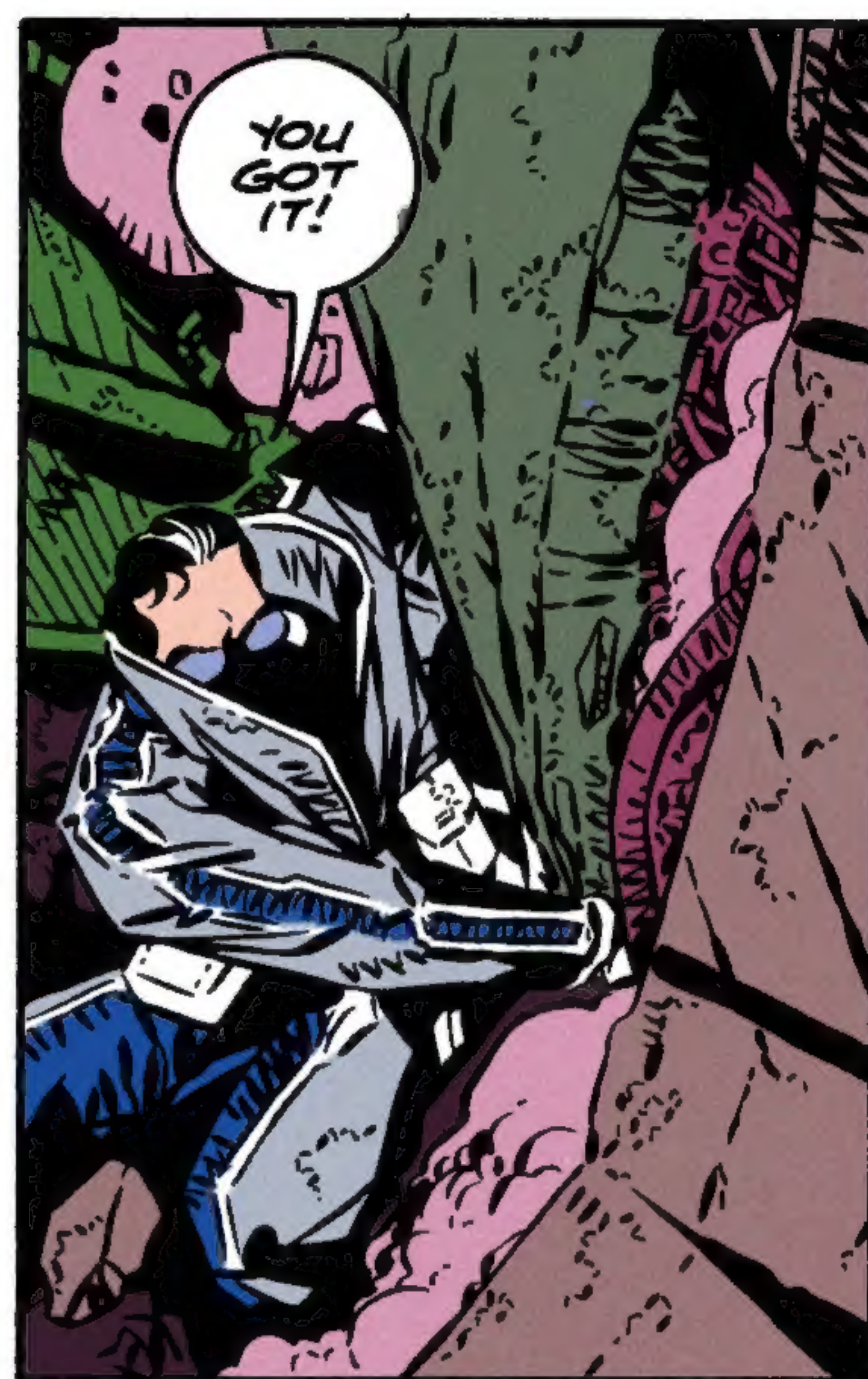
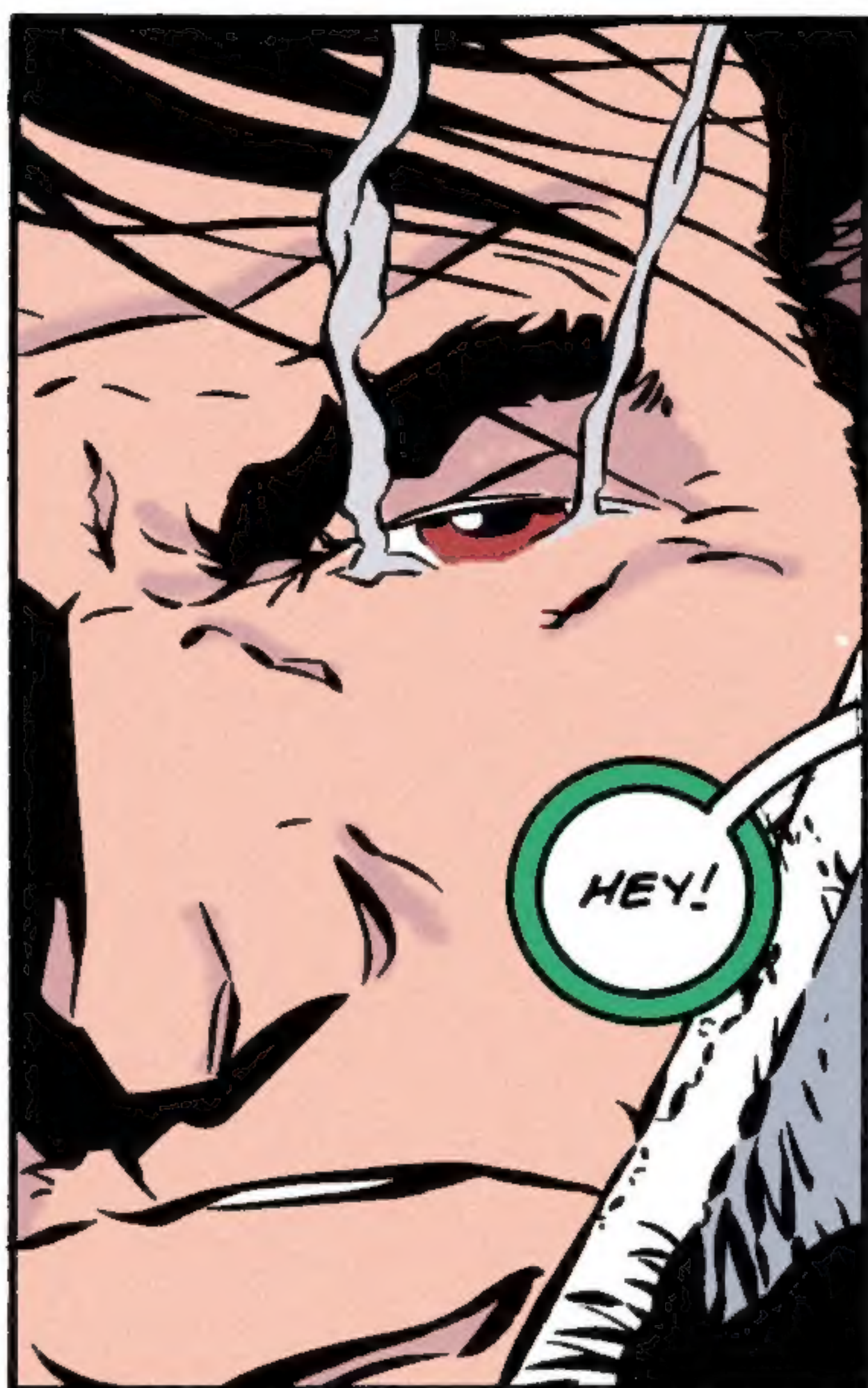
C'MON,
KID, WE'VE
GOT A GIG
TO GET TO.

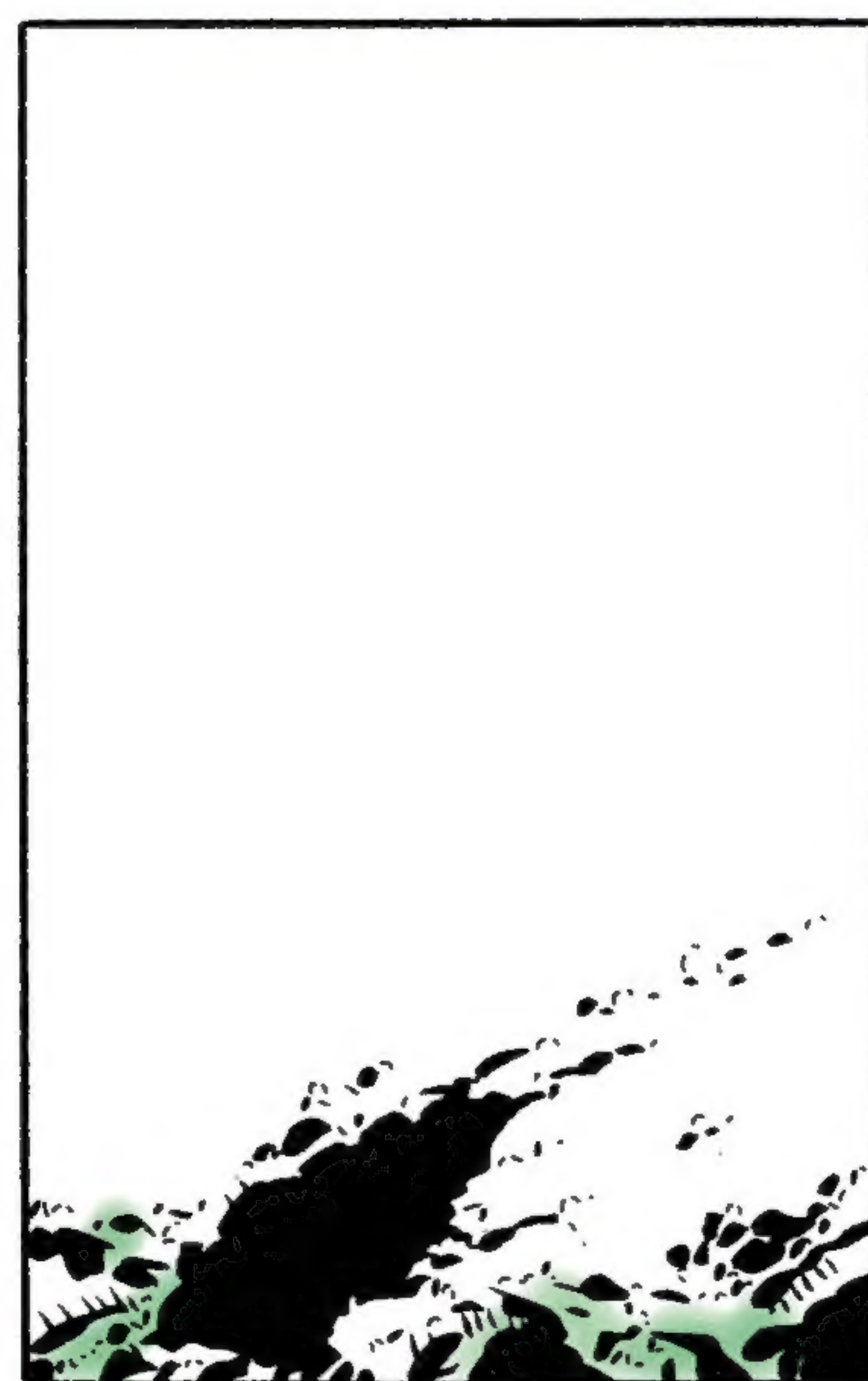
HEY! CURB
YOUR DOG,
GREENIE, OR
I'LL HAVE TO
SPAY 'IM
RIGHT
HERE.

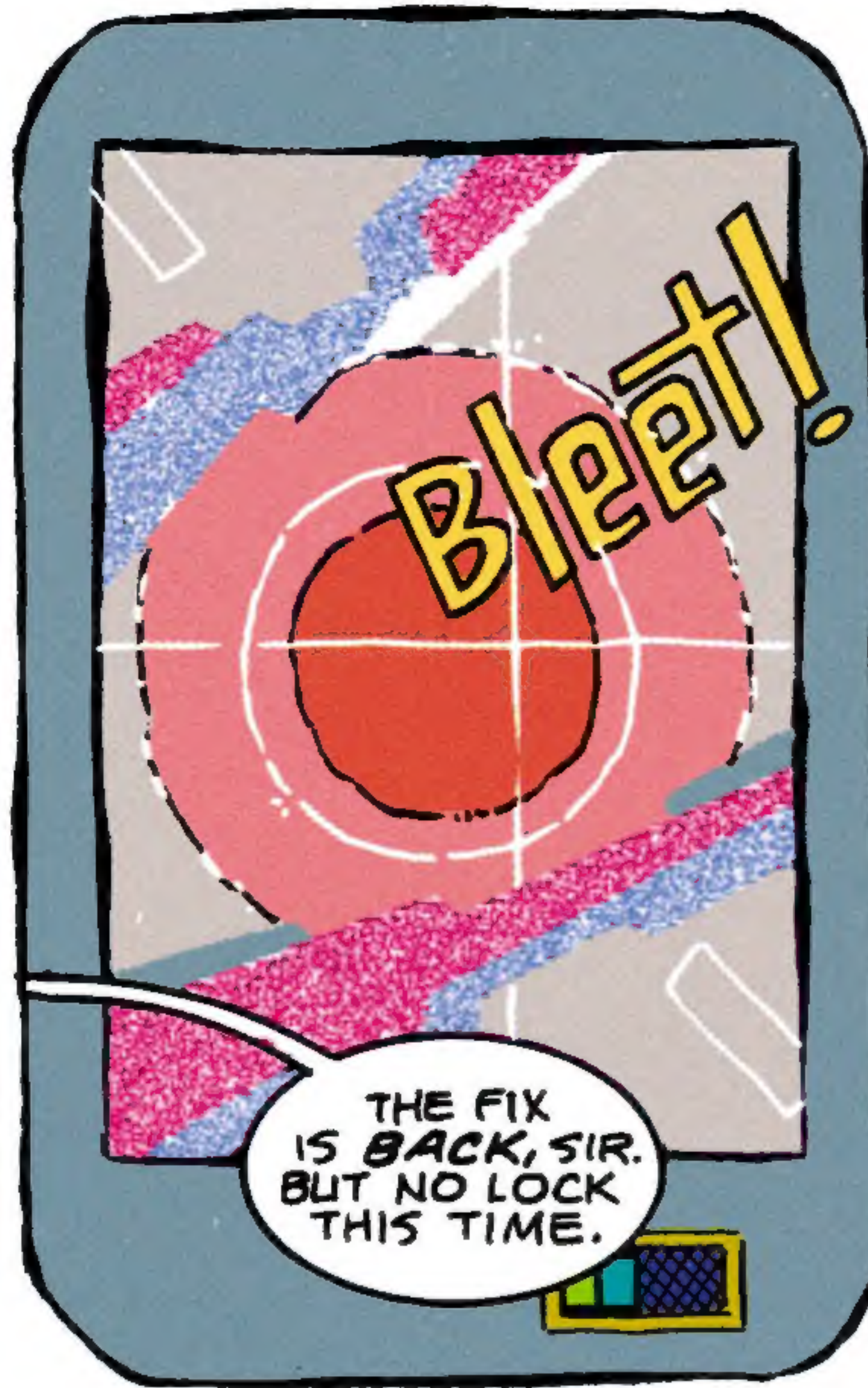
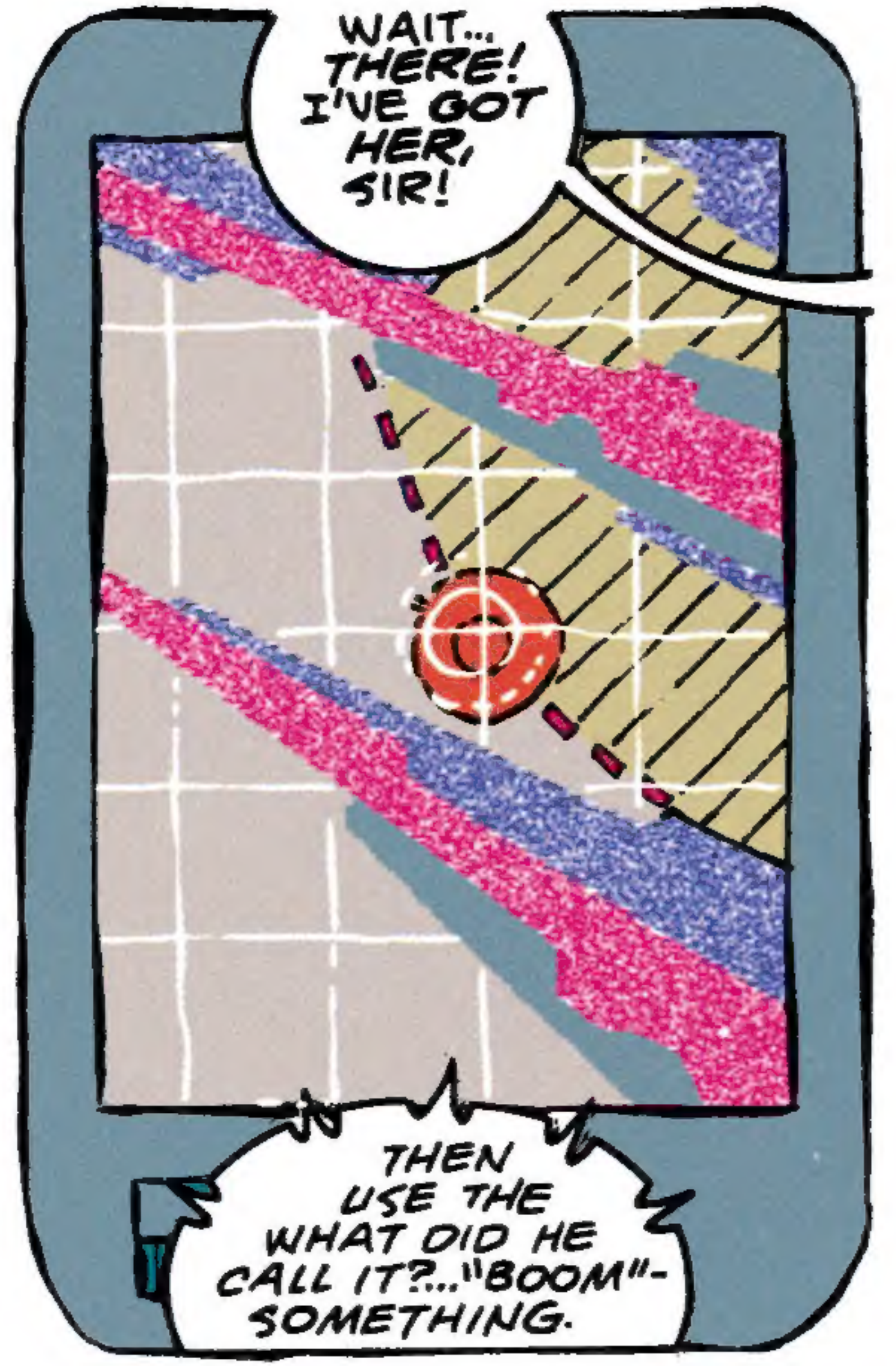
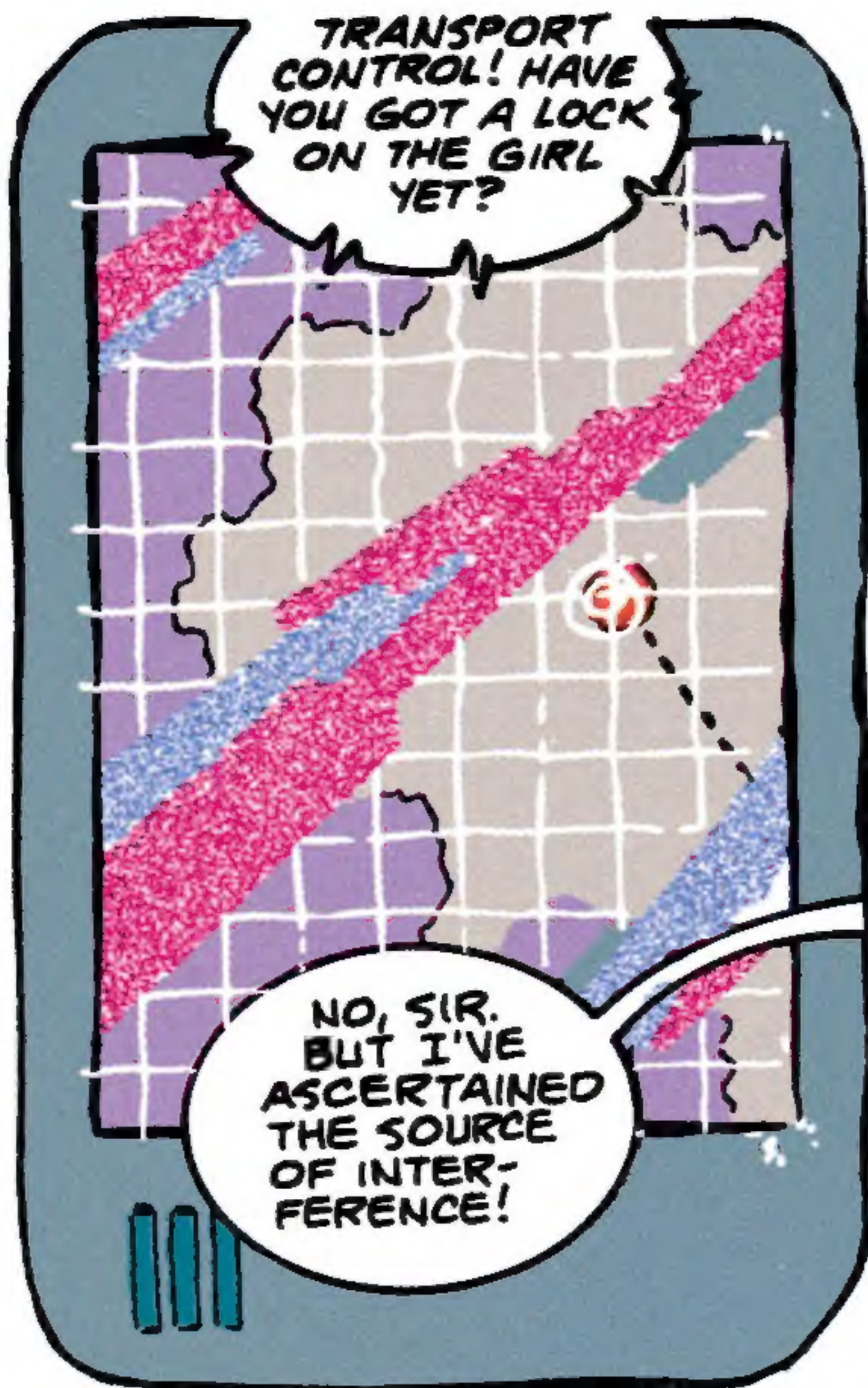
RRRR!



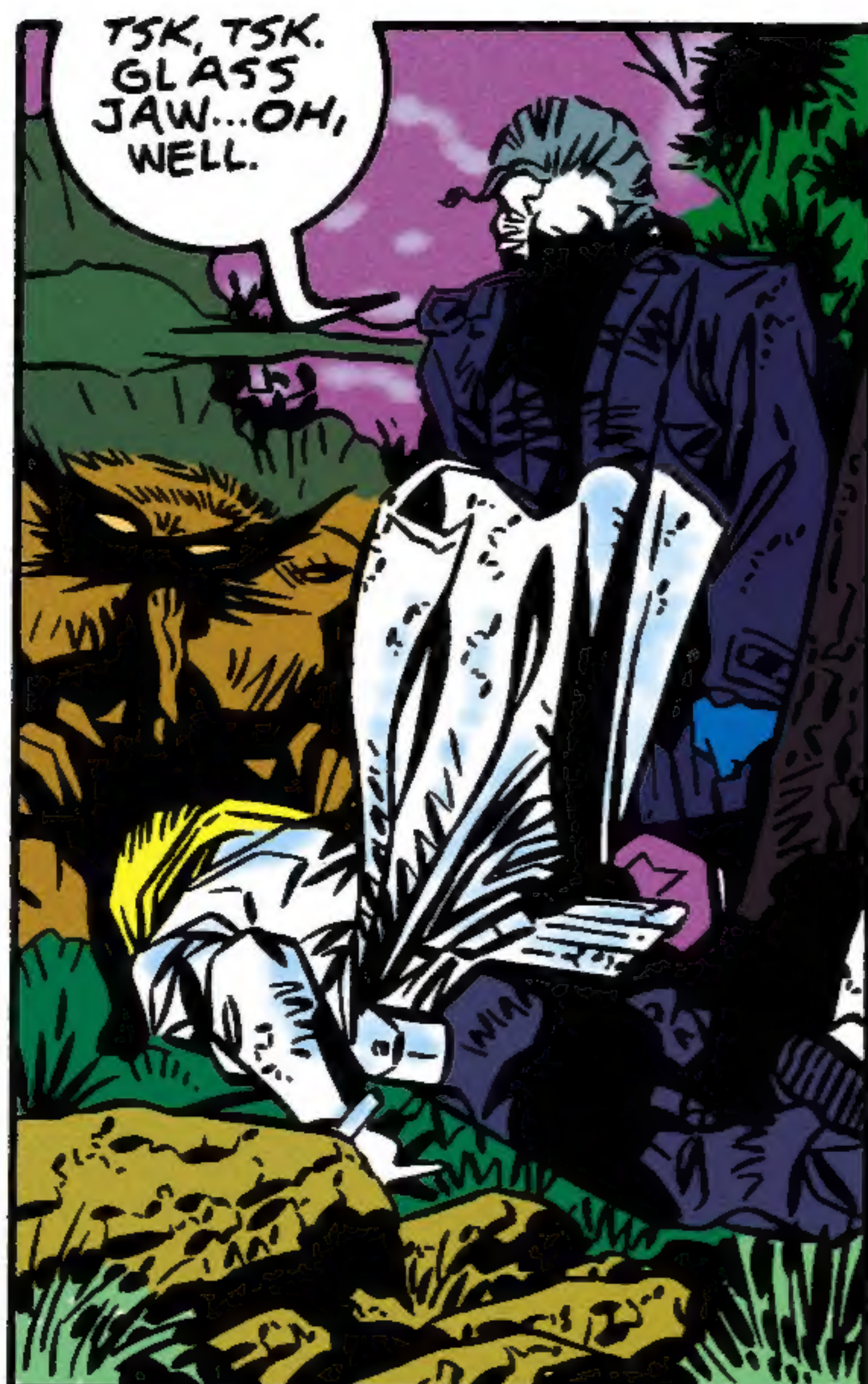
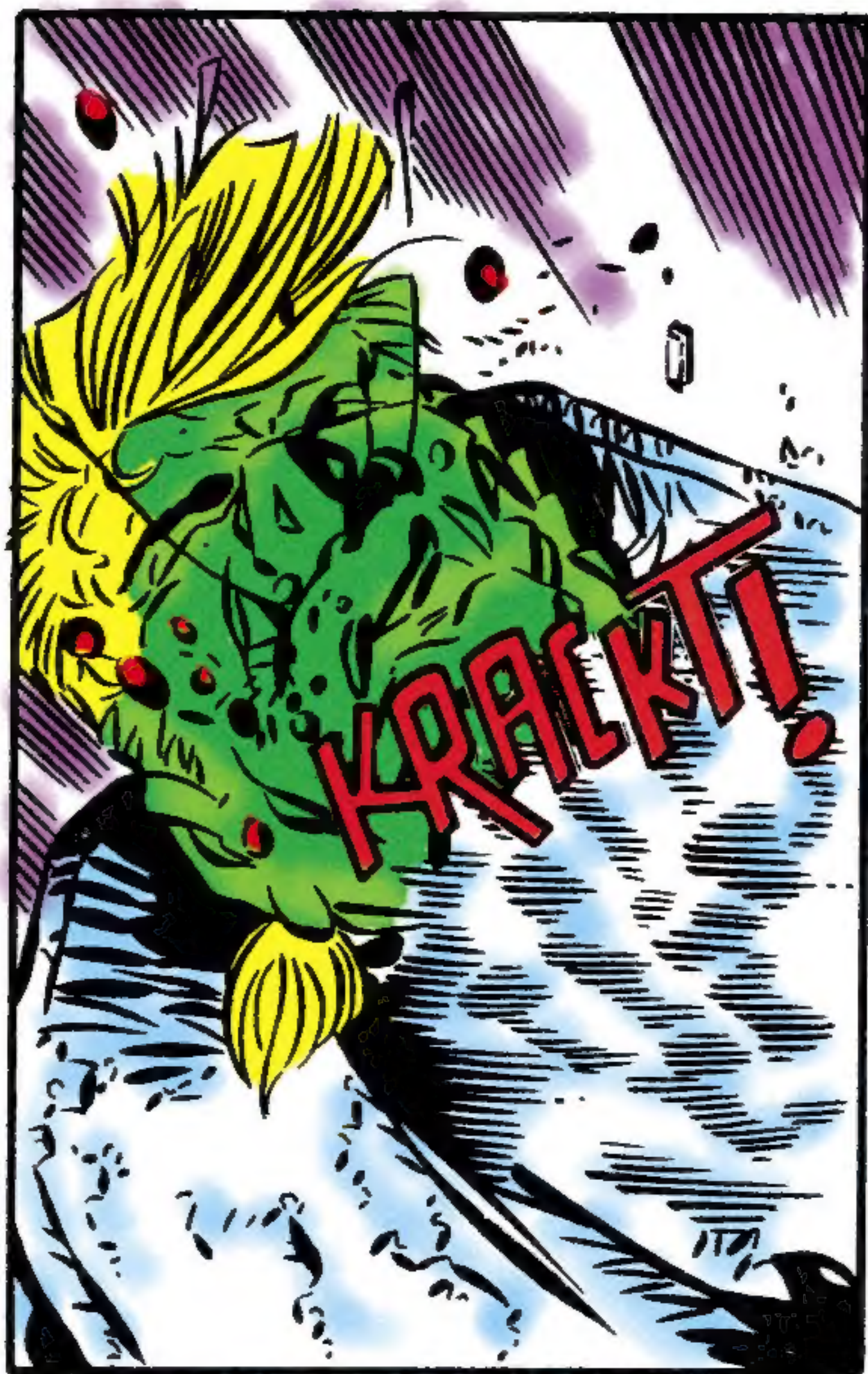






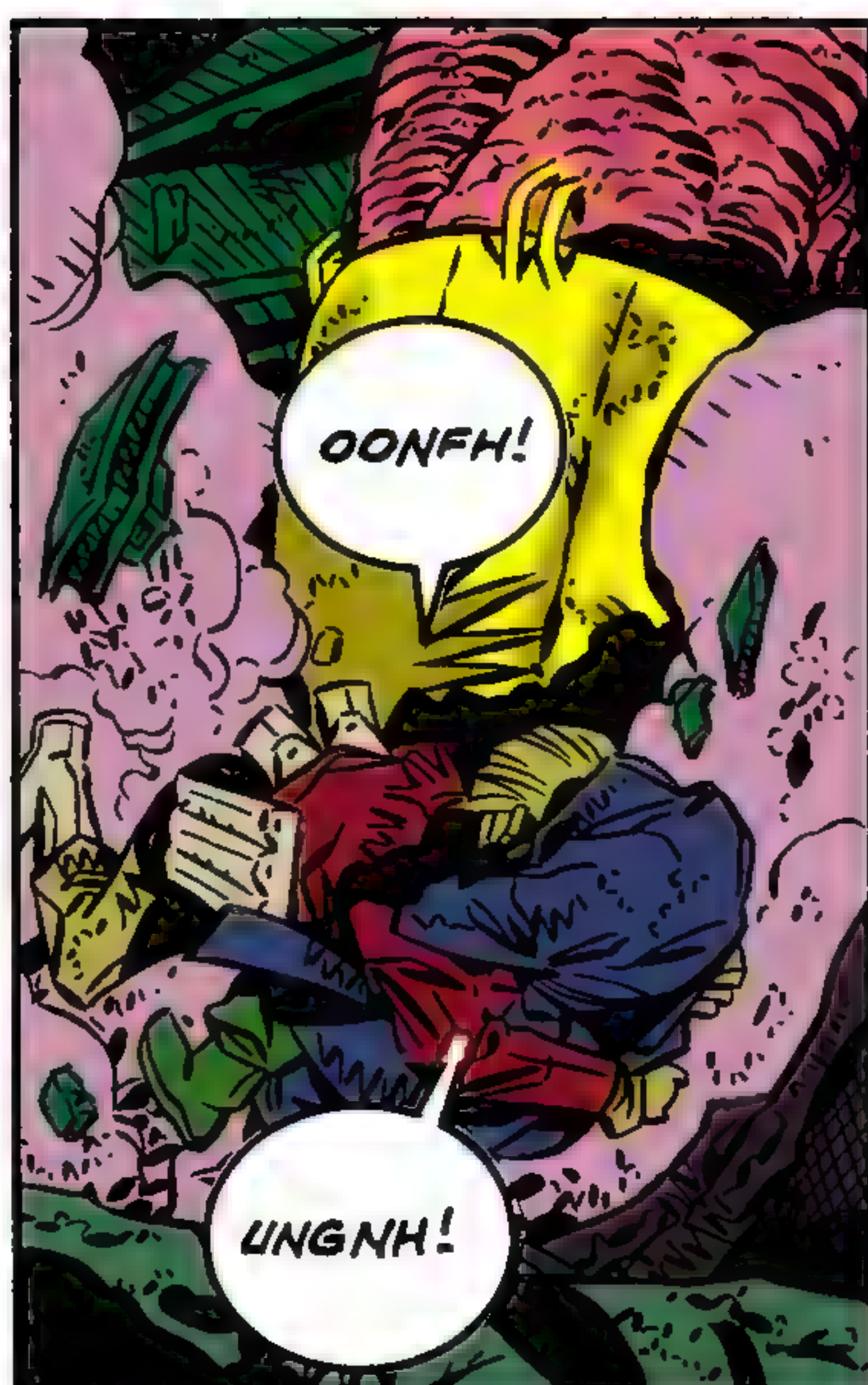
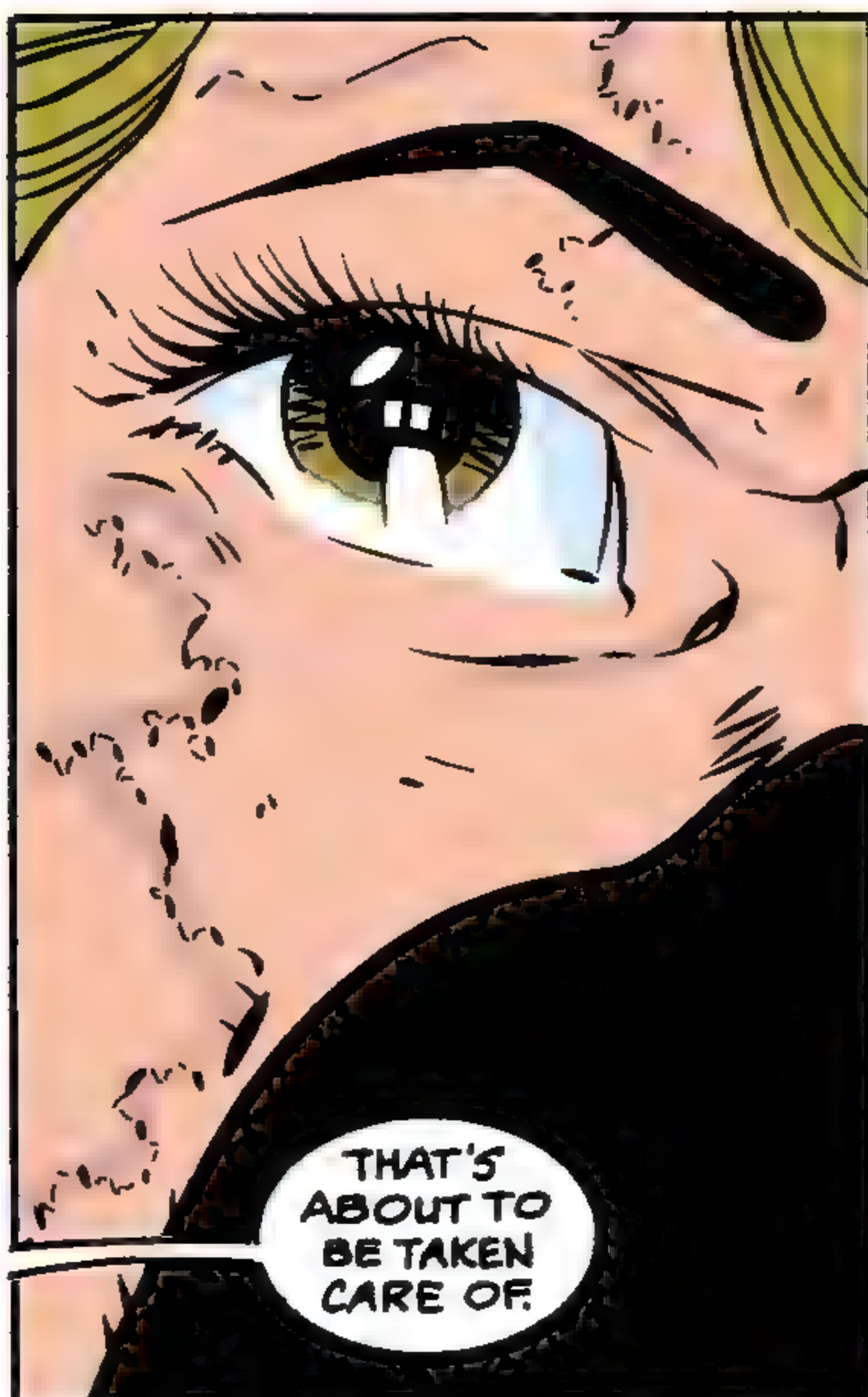


BOOM!

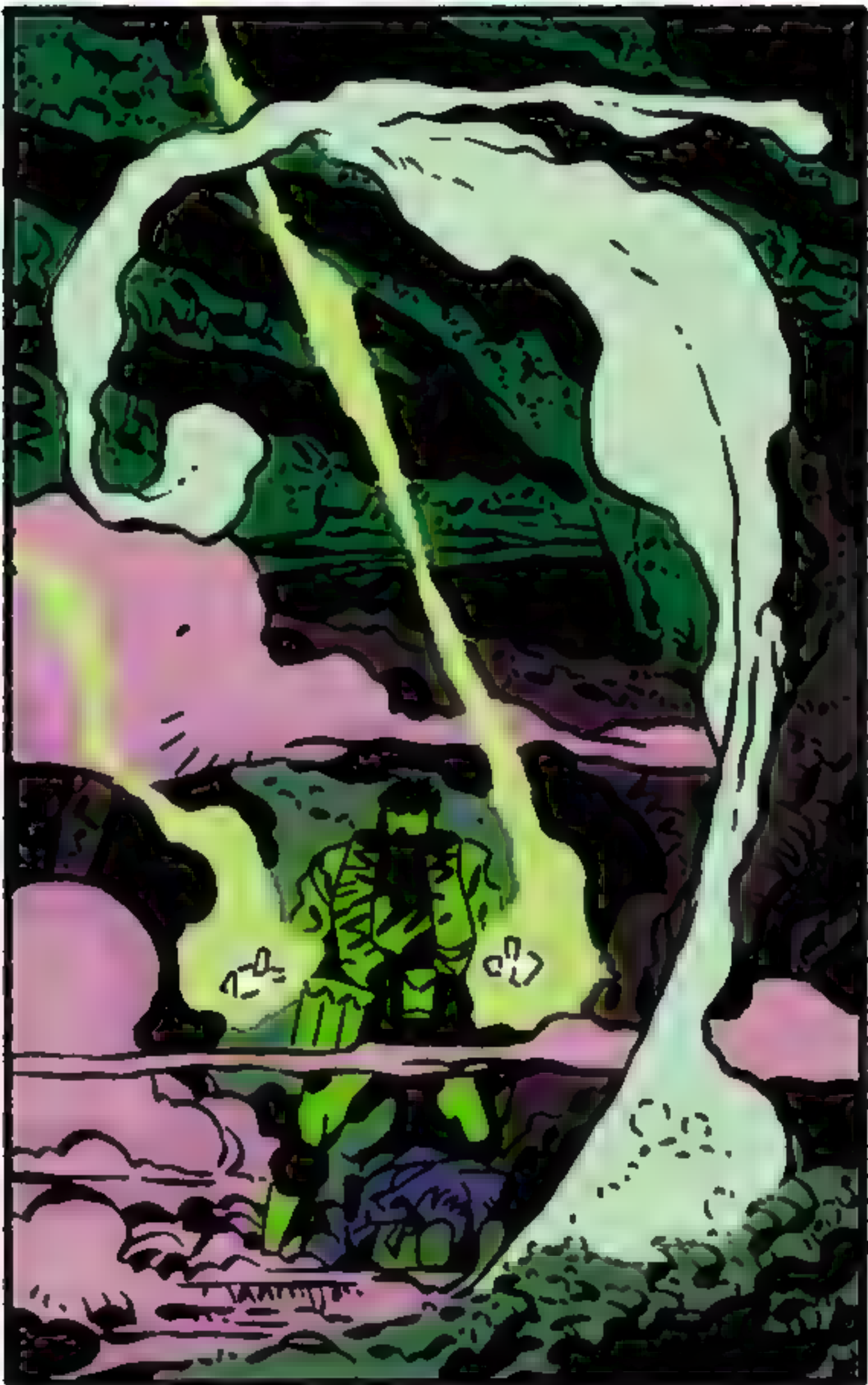


BOOM!









CHEEZ, KENT!
SHE TOOK 'EM
ALL OUT...WITH
JUST ONE
SHOT!

HUH...WHATTA YOU
KNOW...I GUESS
SHE REALLY IS
DANGEROUS!

HMMM...
AREN'T ALL
WOMEN?



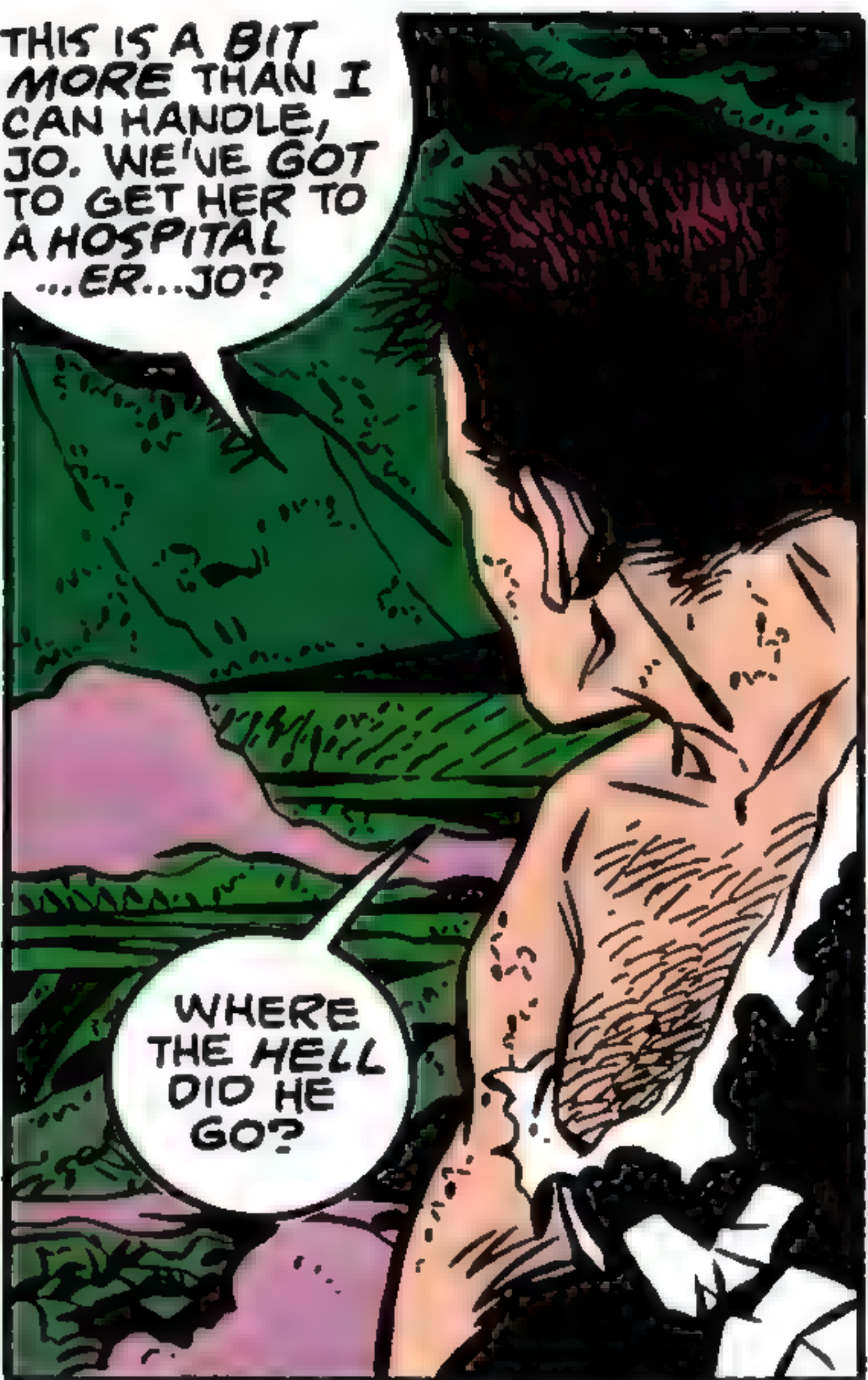
CELESTE,
ARE YOU...?

...OH,
LORD...
JO...?



...SHE'S
TRANS-
PARENT.

SHE'S
BREATHING,
BUT SHE'S
TRANS-
PARENT.



THIS IS A BIT
MORE THAN I
CAN HANDLE,
JO. WE'VE GOT
TO GET HER TO
A HOSPITAL
...ER...JO?

WHERE
THE HELL
DID HE
GO?



I THINK HE
WENT TO TAKE
A SHOWER.

A SHOWER?

YEAH... HE
SAID SOMETHING
ABOUT "GYRO-SOAP."



OH, GOD... HERE WE
GO AGAIN! I TAKE IT
YOU'RE NOT SUPPOSED
TO BE HERE.

UMM...
I DON'T
THINK
SO.

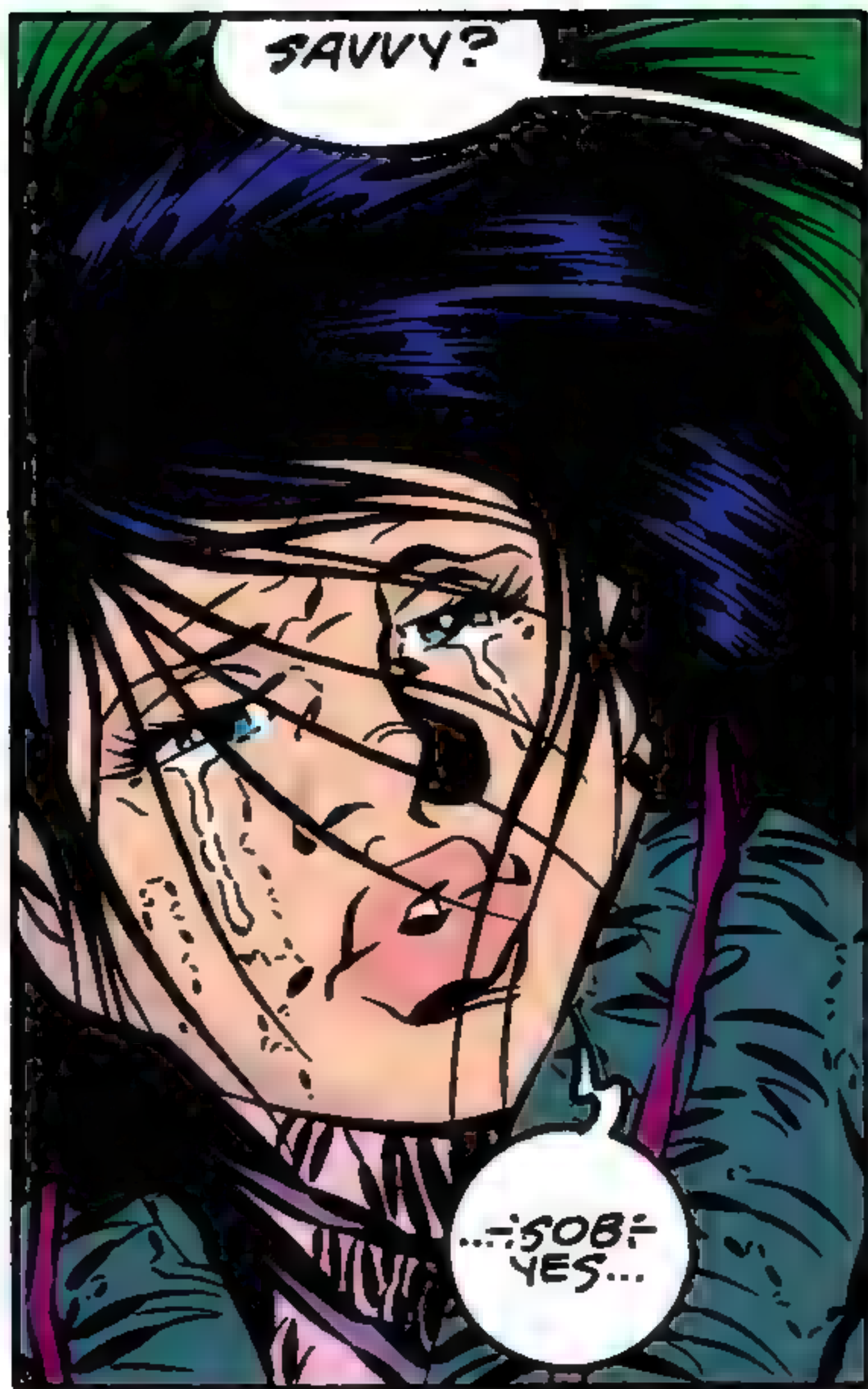
WELL?
THEN WHAT ARE
YOU WAITING
FOR? YOU'RE
WITH US.



I GUESS THAT'S WHY
THEY CALL 'EM DUMB
ANIMALS.



LISTEN, SWEETHEART...
IF YOU MAKE THIS EASY
FOR ME, I WON'T HAVE
T' KILL YOUR FRIENDS.



SAVVY?

...SOB-
YES...



OKAY, BIKE...
UNCLOAK.

NICE CHOPPER, EH?
HAD TO HAVE A "SISSY"
BAR INSTALLED FOR
THIS JOB, THOUGH.



I GOT A
LITTLE
SOME-
THING
FOR YA,
KID.



IT'LL
HELP ME
GET YOU
BACK TO
CRATER
FACE--

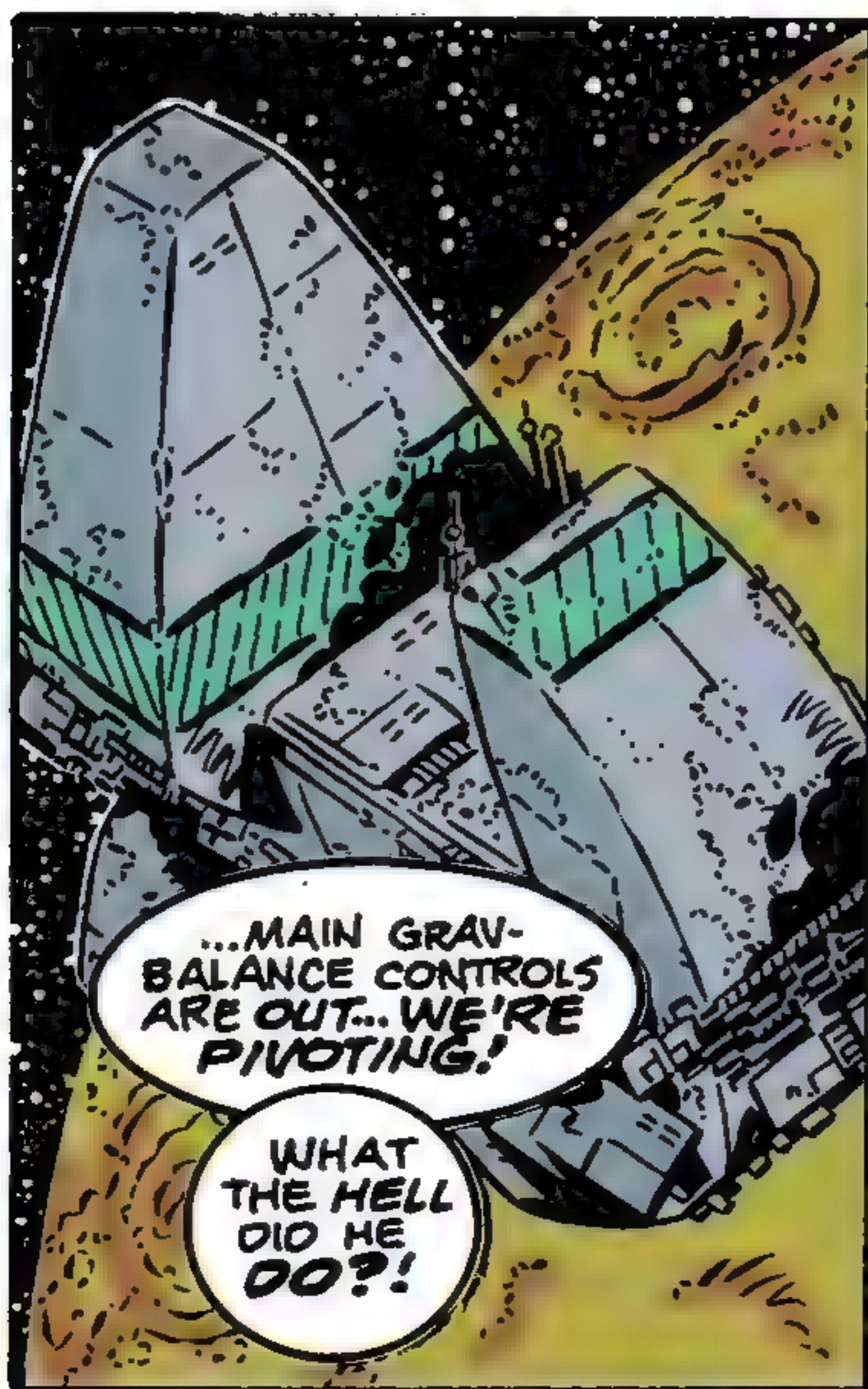


--IN
ONE
PIECE.

Y'KNOW,
YOU LOOK
KINDA CUTE,
ALL TIED UP
LIKE THAT.



MAYBE I'LL
LOOK YA UP
WHEN CRATER
FACE IS
DONE WITH
YA.



...MAIN GRAV-BALANCE CONTROLS ARE OUT... WE'RE PIVOTING!

WHAT THE HELL DID HE DO?!



HE TOOK OUT THE CORE GYRO UNIT!

I NEED MANUAL RETROS ... DAMN! THE COMPUTER-SYNCS ARE OUT!

I'VE GOT MANUAL OVERRIDE!



STARBOARD RETROS, THIRTY DEGREES!

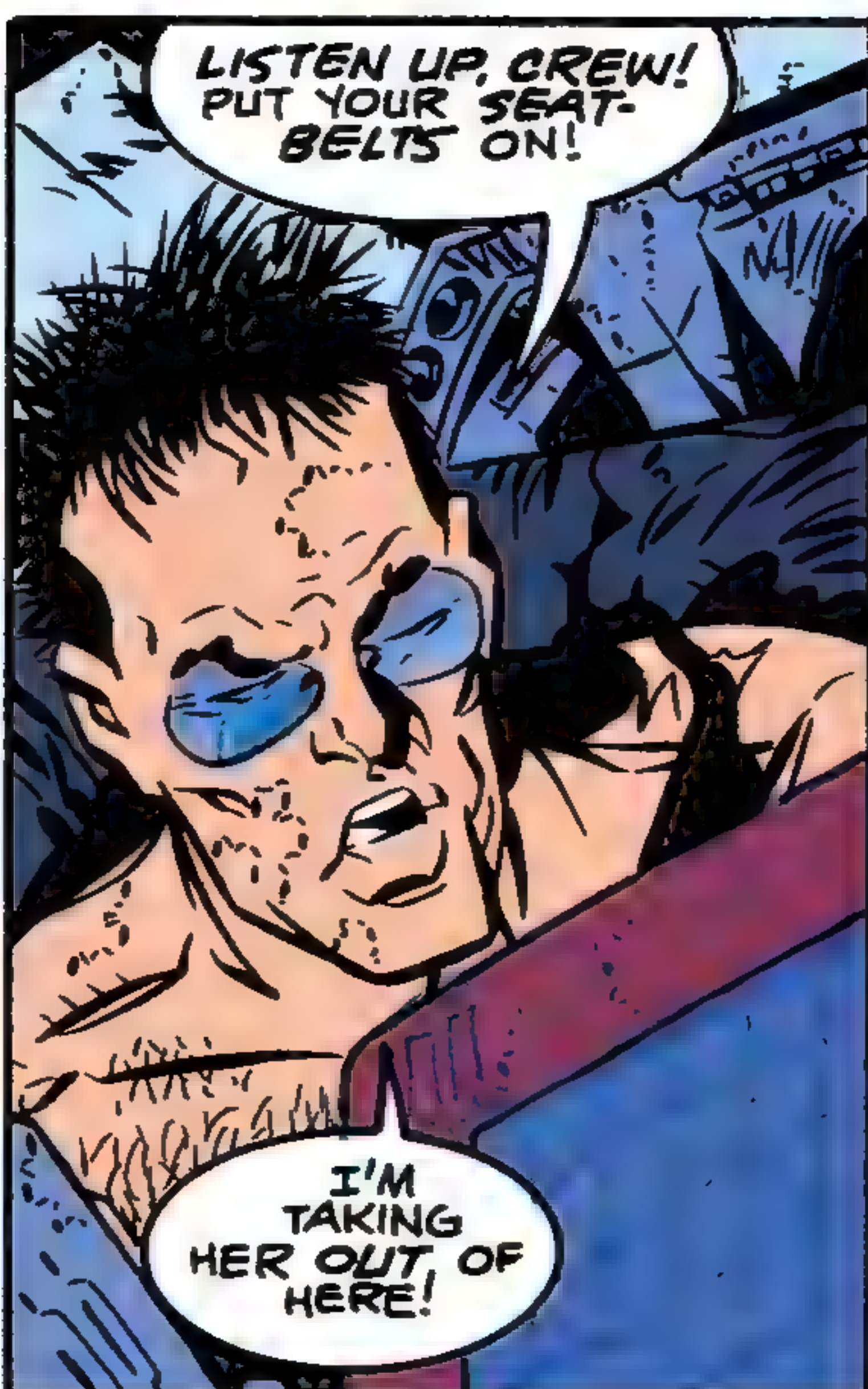
NO, NO! WAIT! PORT RETROS, EIGHTEEN DEGREES ... QUICK!

I CAN'T STABILIZE ... WE'RE COMING APART!



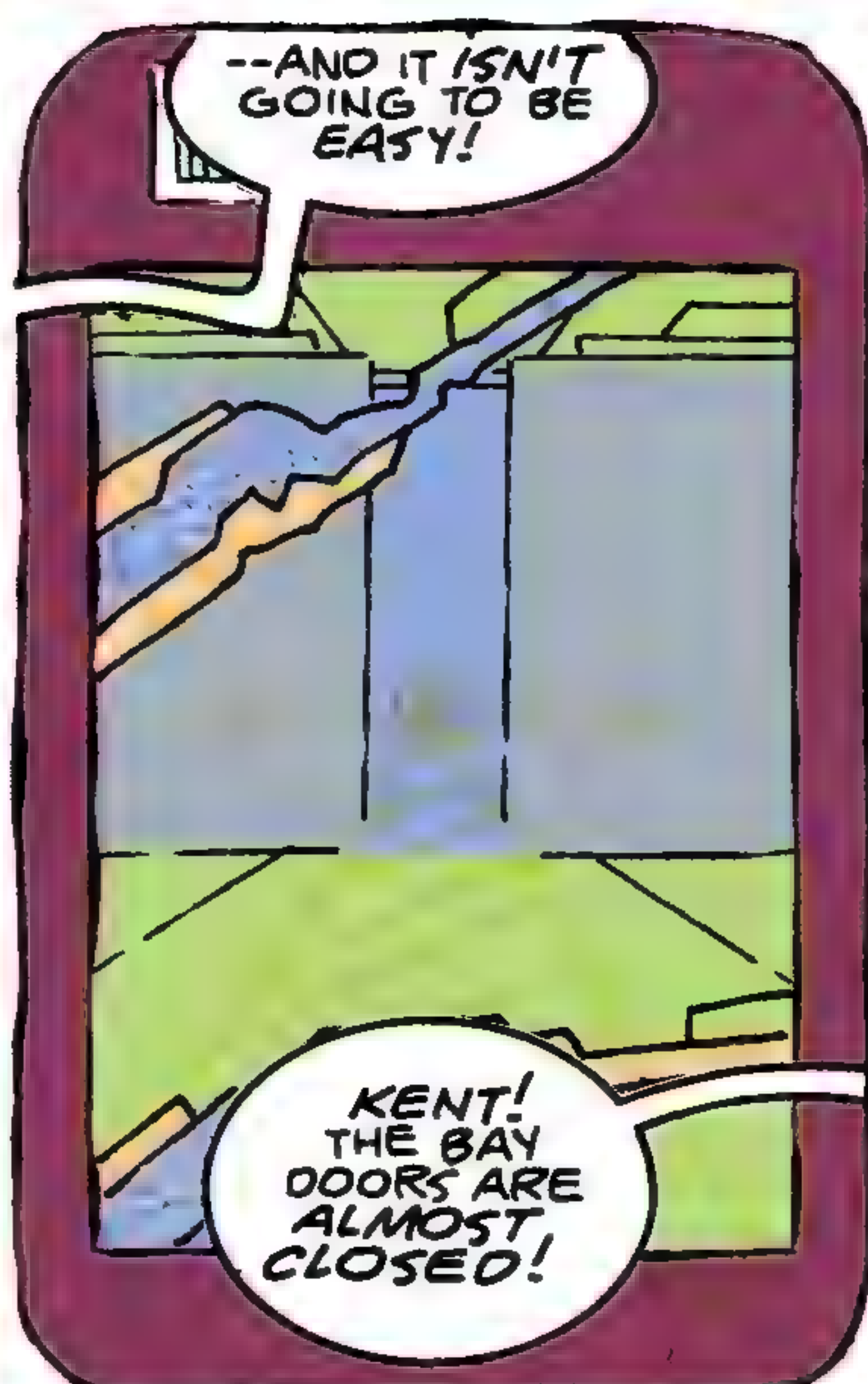
KENT! THE FUSION COUPLINGS ARE ONLY AT FIFTY-SEVEN PERCENT!

IT'S GONNA HAVE TO DO, JO.



LISTEN UP, CREW! PUT YOUR SEAT-BELTS ON!

I'M TAKING HER OUT OF HERE!

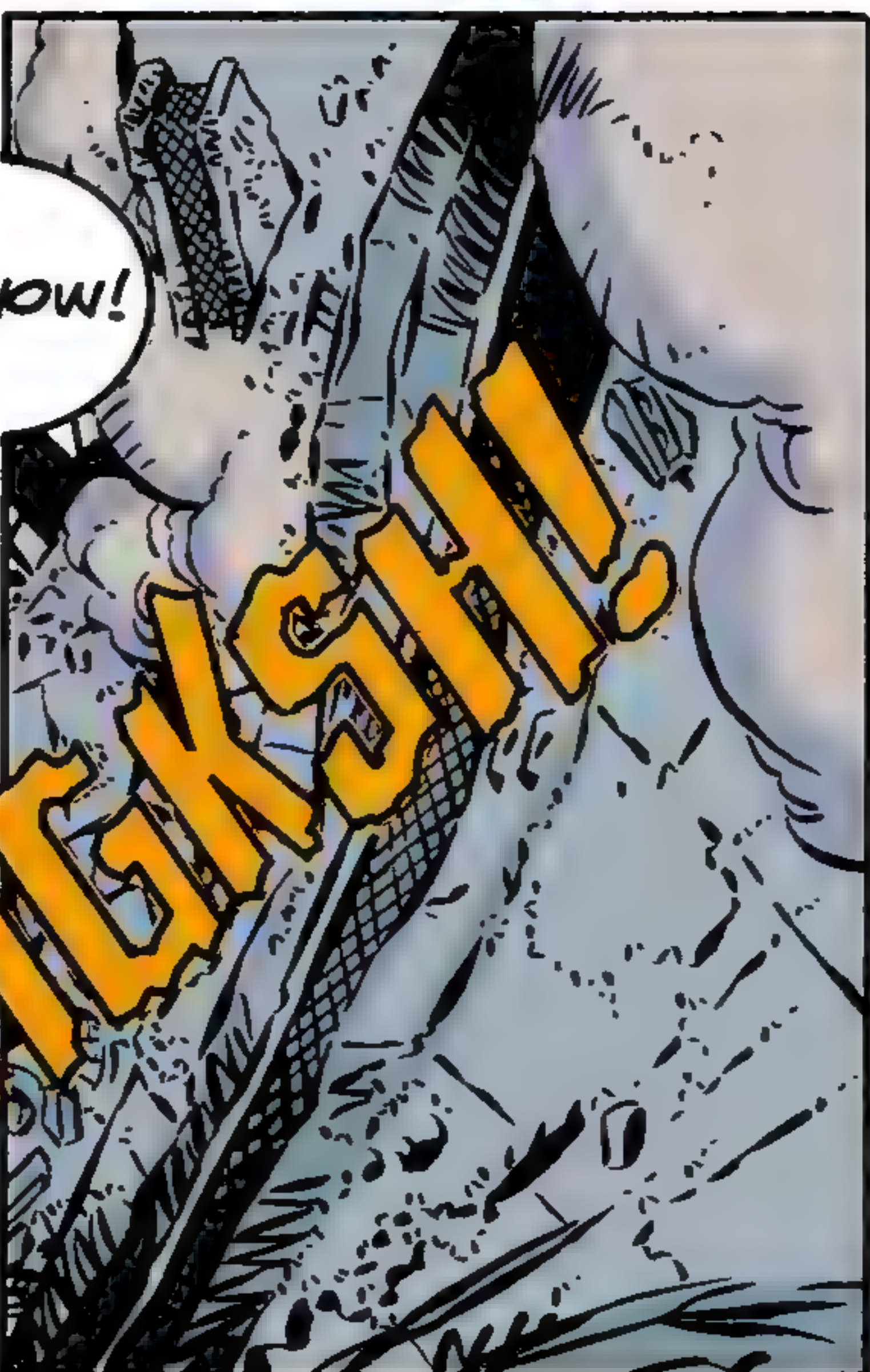


--AND IT ISN'T GOING TO BE EASY!

KENT! THE BAY DOORS ARE ALMOST CLOSED!

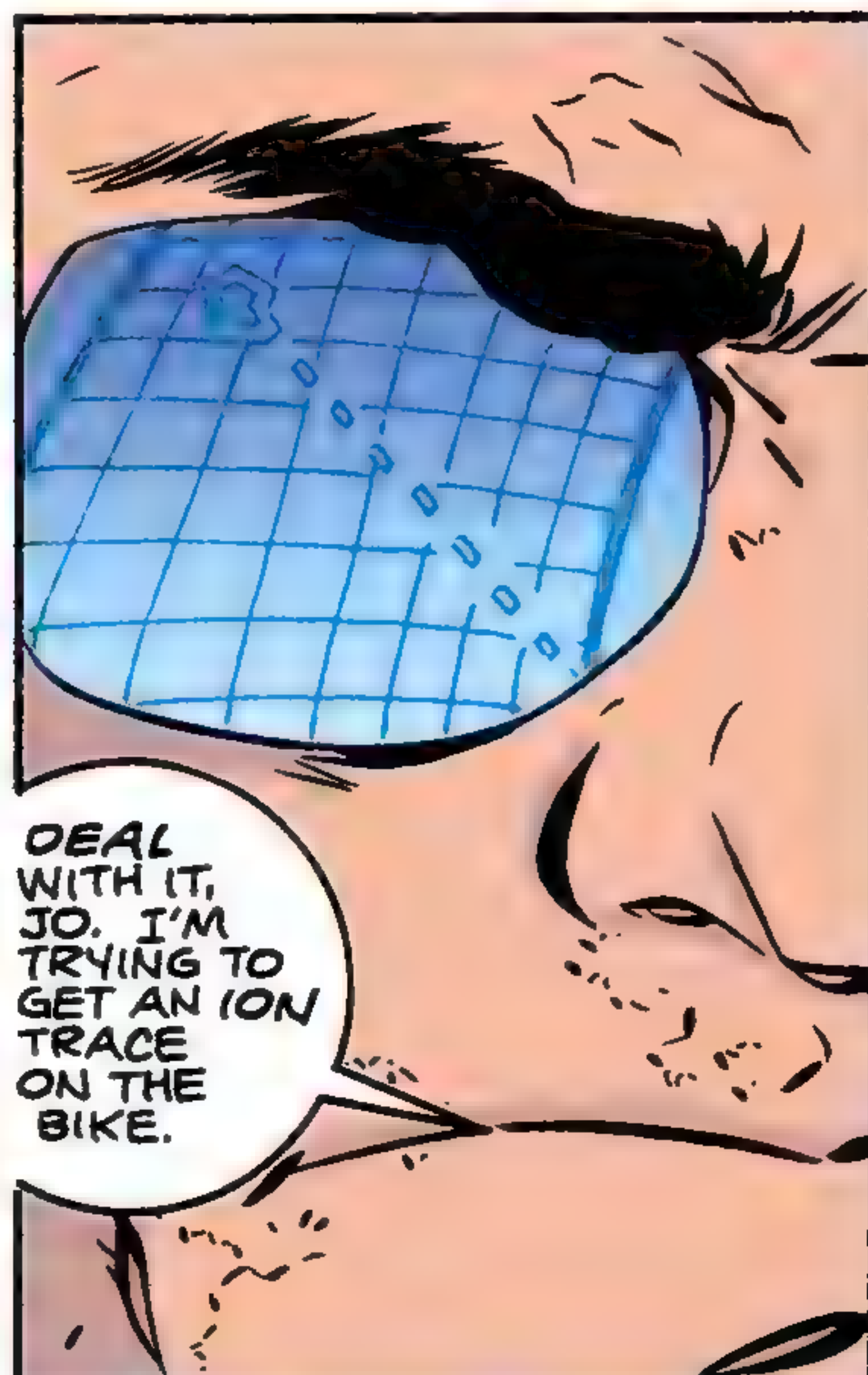
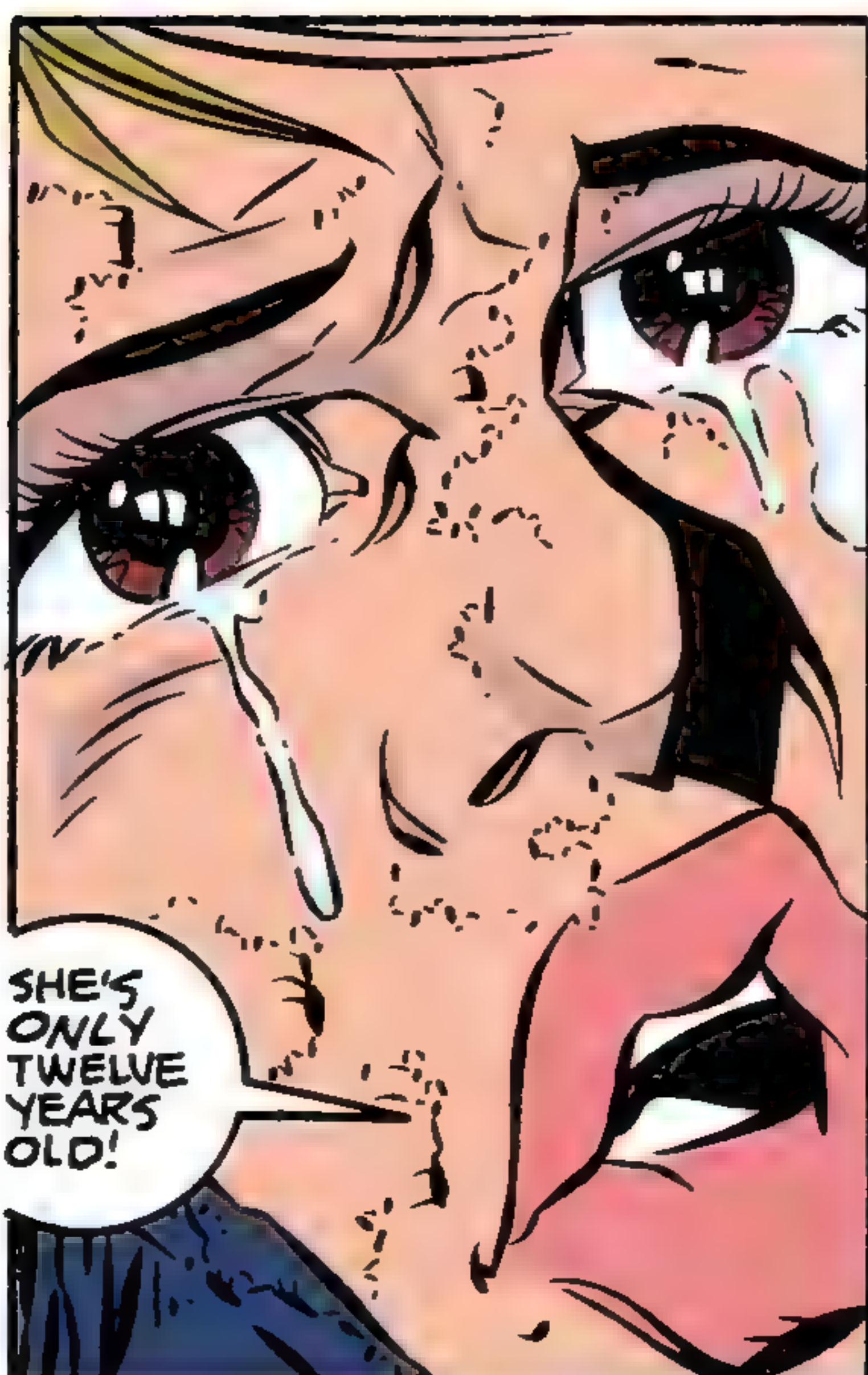
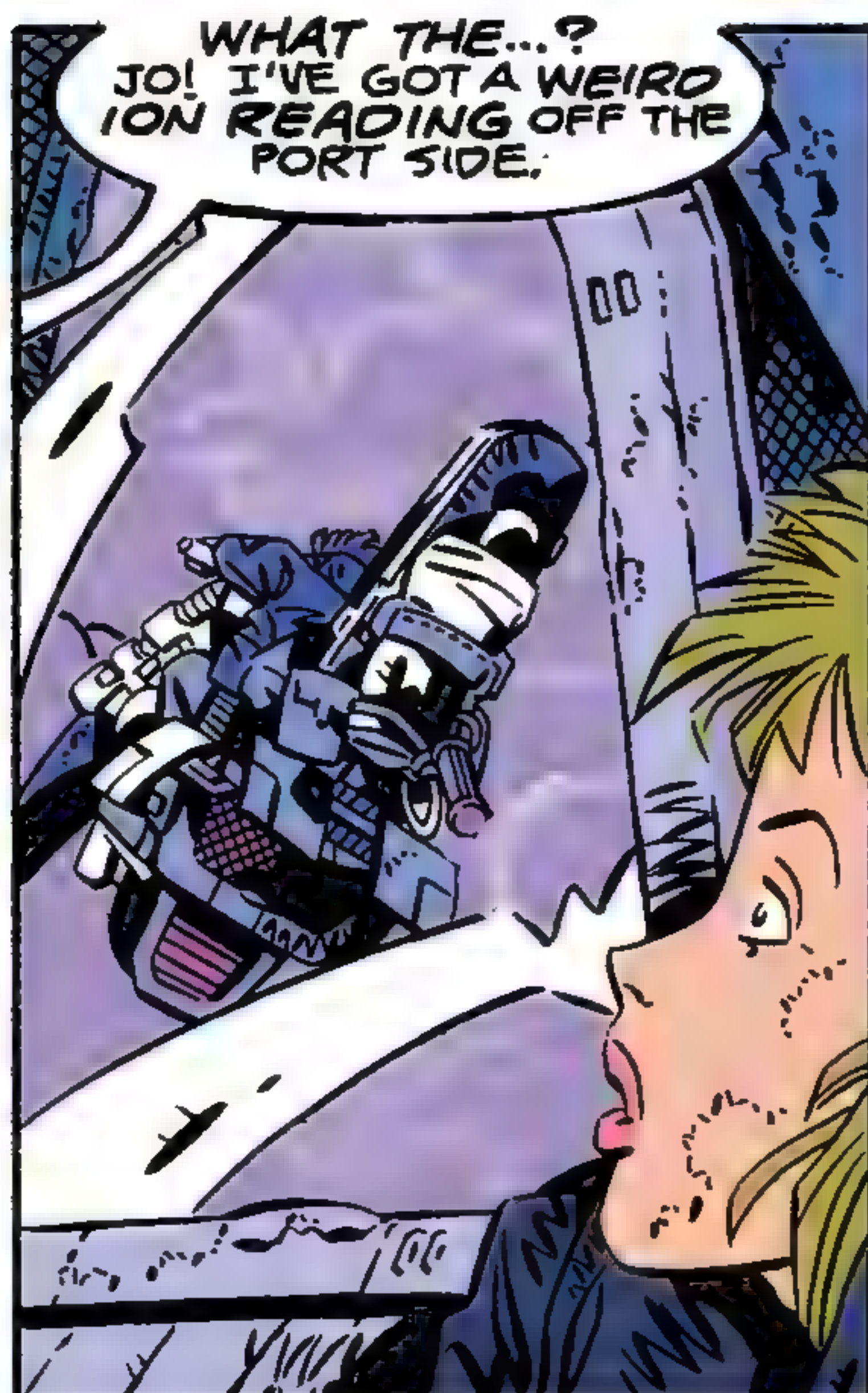
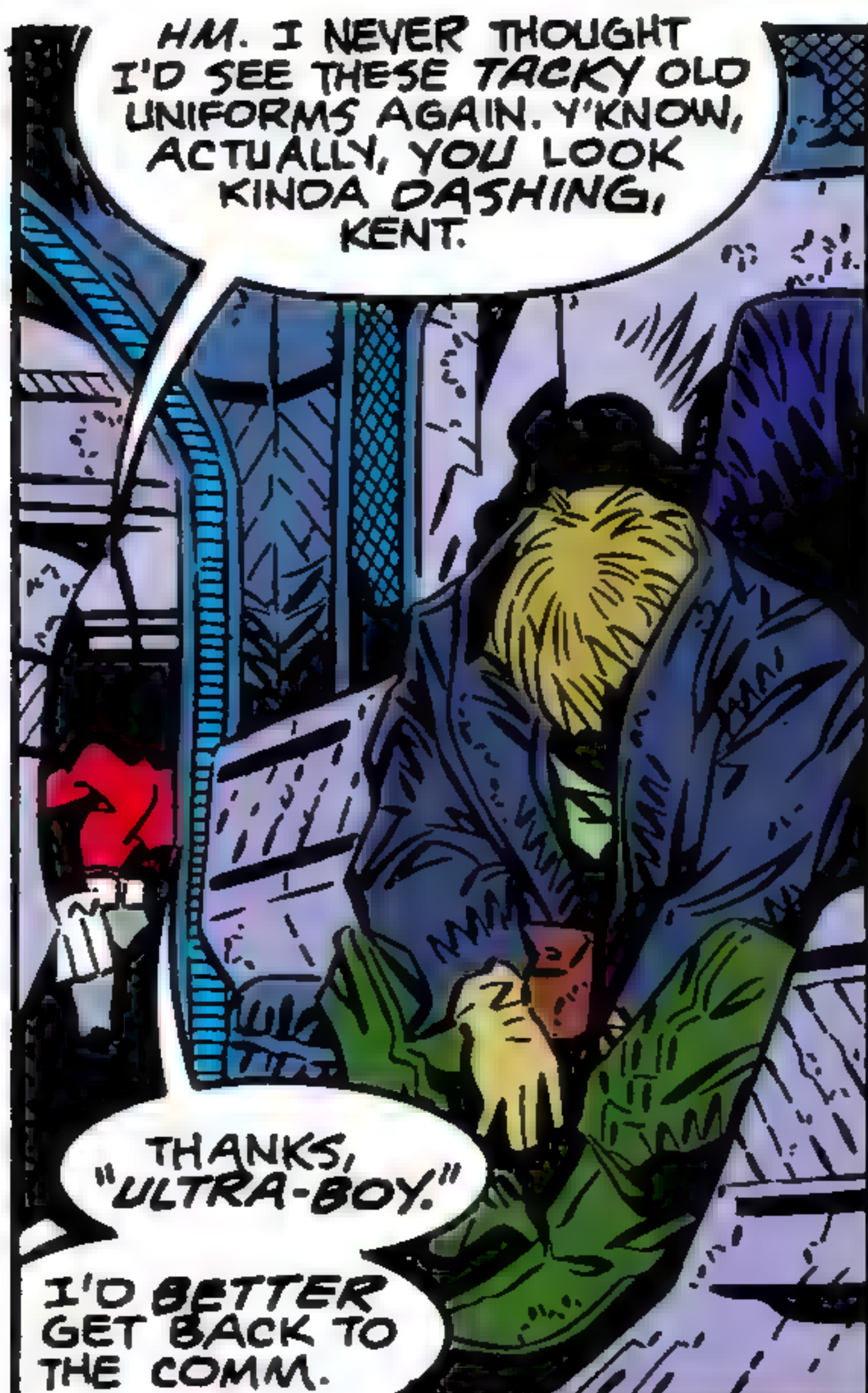
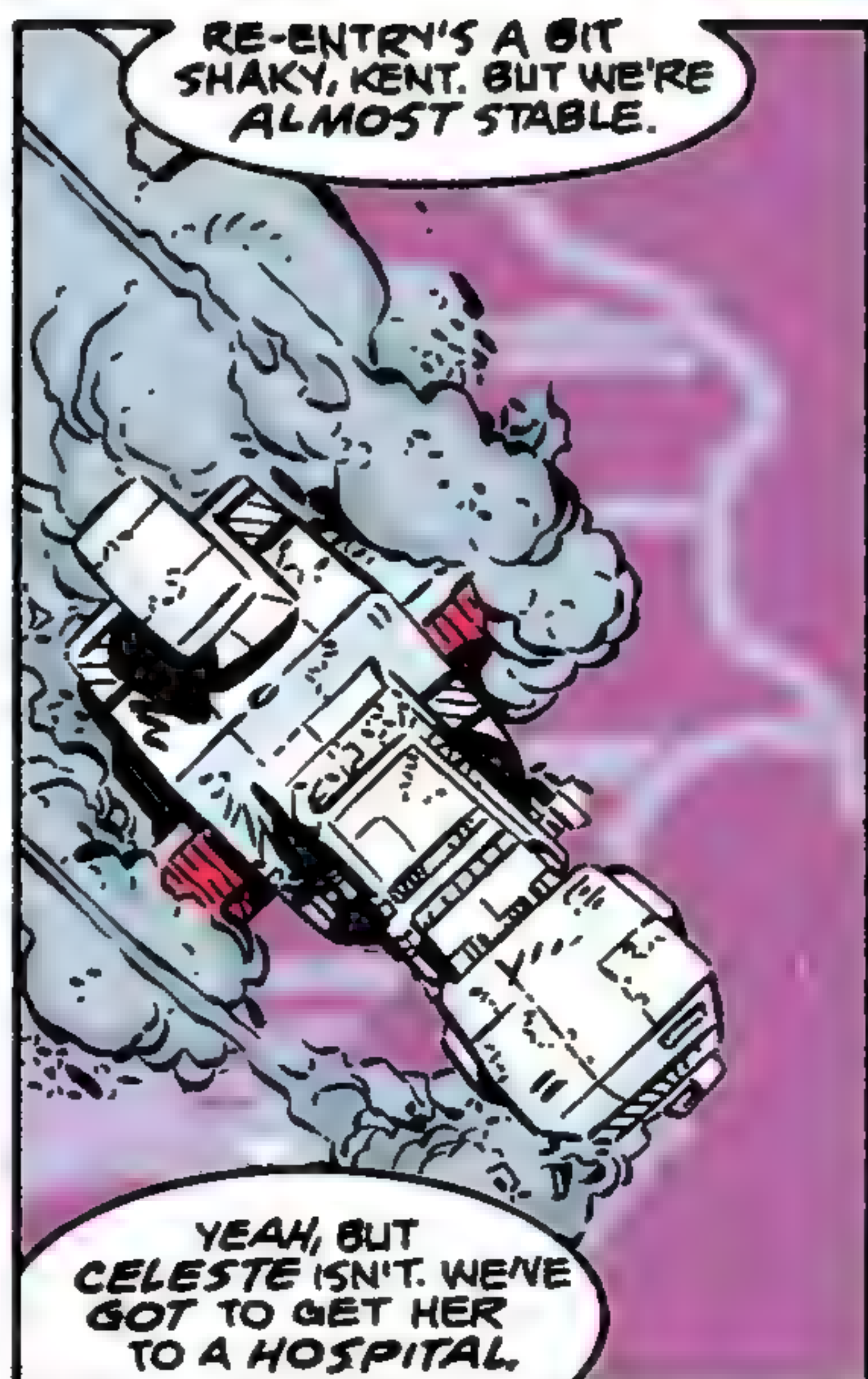


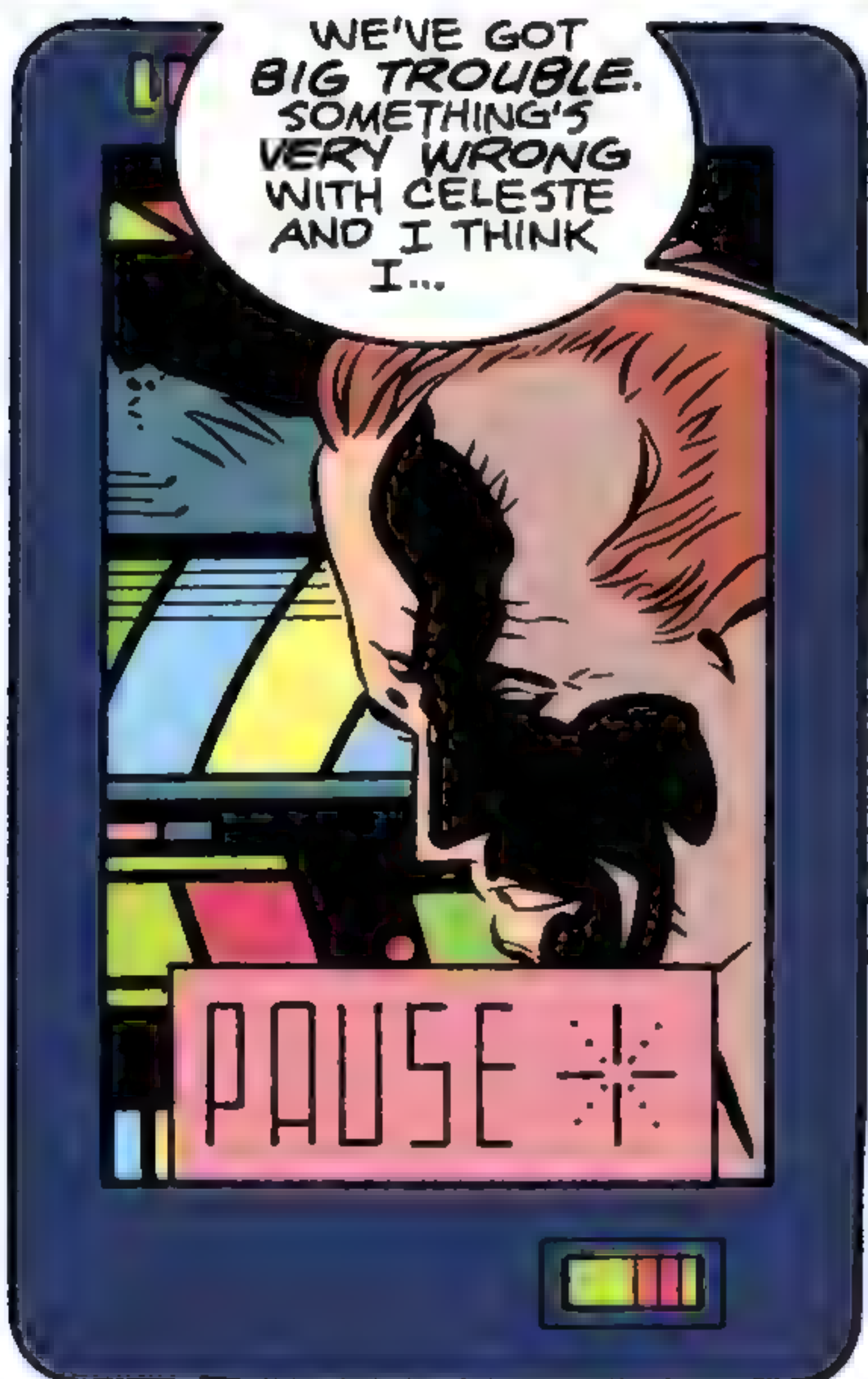
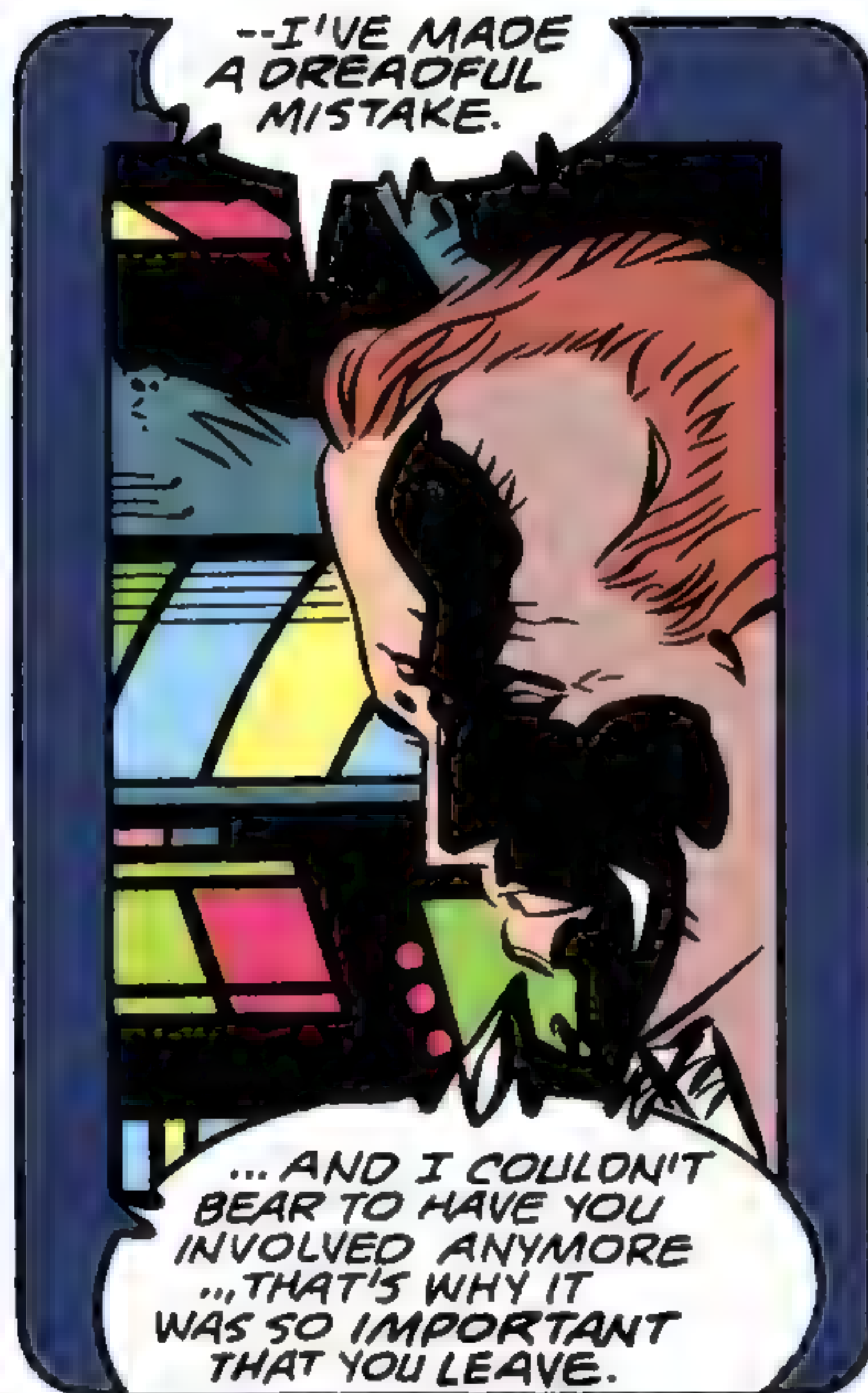
I KNOW!



I HATE THIS!

OUR OUT. GYRO IS HAVE TO BREAK ORBIT IMMEDIATELY!









...FOR ONCE,
I'D LIKE TO
BE WRONG.

MAKE
THE PLACE
PRESENTABLE.
WE'RE GOING
TO HAVE...

...GUESTS.

AL GORDON
WRITER, INKER
KEITH GIFFEN
PENCILLER
JOHN WORKMAN
LETTERING
TOM McCRAW
COLORIST
DAN RASPLER
EDITOR
DARKSEID CRATED BY
JACK KIRBY

RESISTANCE HEAD-
QUARTERS, EARTH...

WEAPONS?
HOSTAGES?
I DON'T KNOW.

THE DOMINATORS COULD
HAVE ANYTHING IN THOSE
UNDERGROUND CHAMBERS.

BUT WHAT-
EVER'S DOWN THERE,
WE THINK IT'S THE
KEY TO WHY THEY'RE
HERE ON EARTH.

SO TAKING THE
CHAMBERS BECOMES OUR
TOP PRIORITY.

WE CAN HANDLE
THE CHAMBERS,
JACQUES. WITH OUR
POWERS...

LAUREL,
I HAVE HANDPICKED
AN IDEAL TEAM FOR THAT
OPERATION. THEY HAVE BEEN
INTENSIVELY TRAINED.

PLEASE
DO NOT TAKE
OFFENSE...

BUT
THEY ARE FAR
BETTER EQUIPPED
FOR THE MISSION
THAN ARE YOU.

NO OFFENSE
TAKEN, JACQUES,
YOU'RE THE BOSS.

WE'RE
ONLY HERE
TO HELP YOU.

BUT WE WOULD
LIKE TO BE ABLE
TO PITCH IN
SOMEWHERE.

I UNDER-
STAND,
LAUREL.

...AND I ONLY
WISH THERE WERE A
SHORTAGE OF VITAL
USES FOR YOU.

BUT WHILE WE
MUST HANDLE THE UNDER-
GROUND OPERATION...

YOU
WILL HAVE
PLENTY TO
DO ABOVE
GROUND.

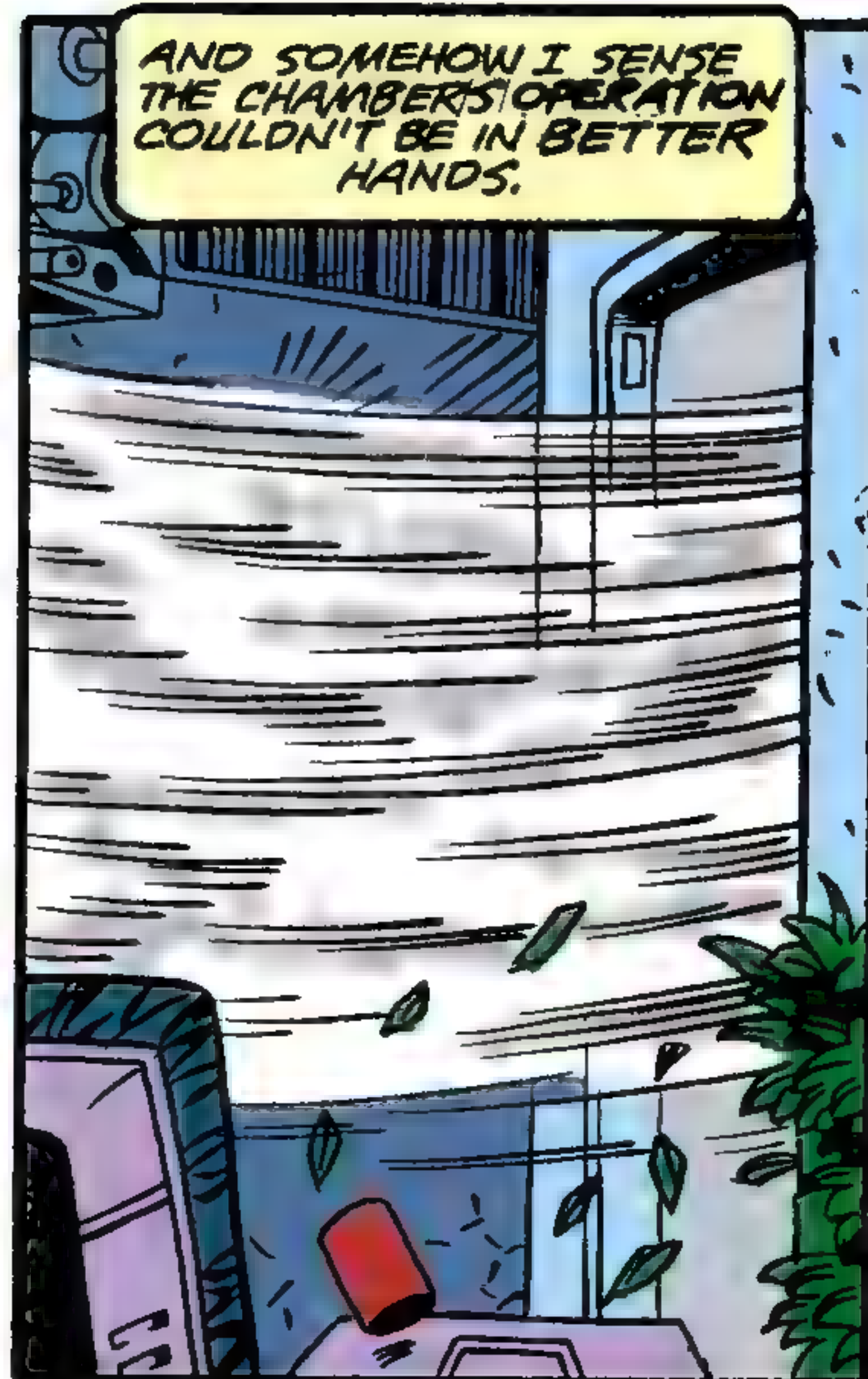
METROPOLIS...



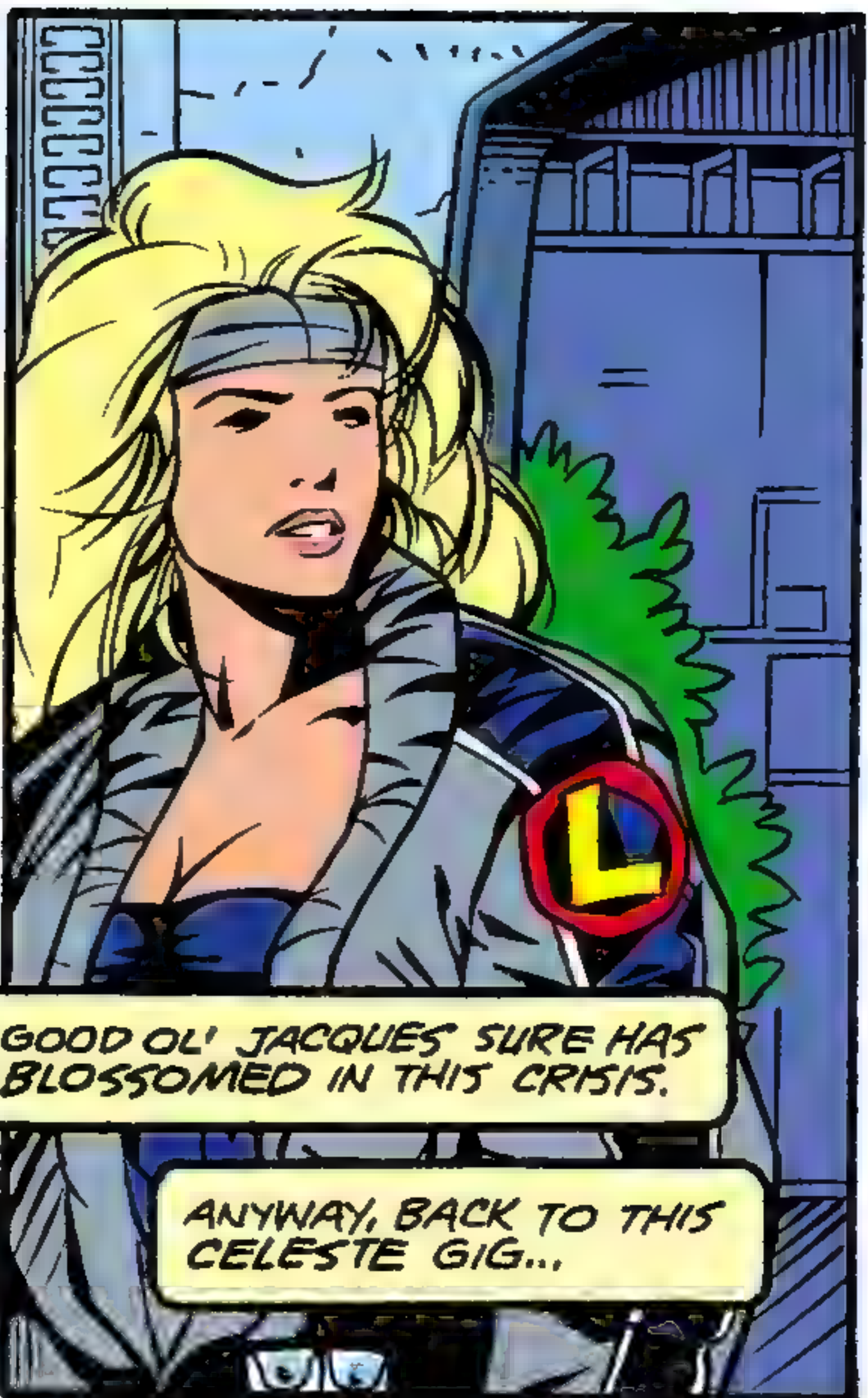
JACQUES IS RIGHT.
LEAVE THE CHAMBERS
TO THE SPECIALISTS.



THE EVERYDAY CARNAGE
UP HERE IS MORE THAN
ENOUGH TO KEEP OUR
HANDS FULL

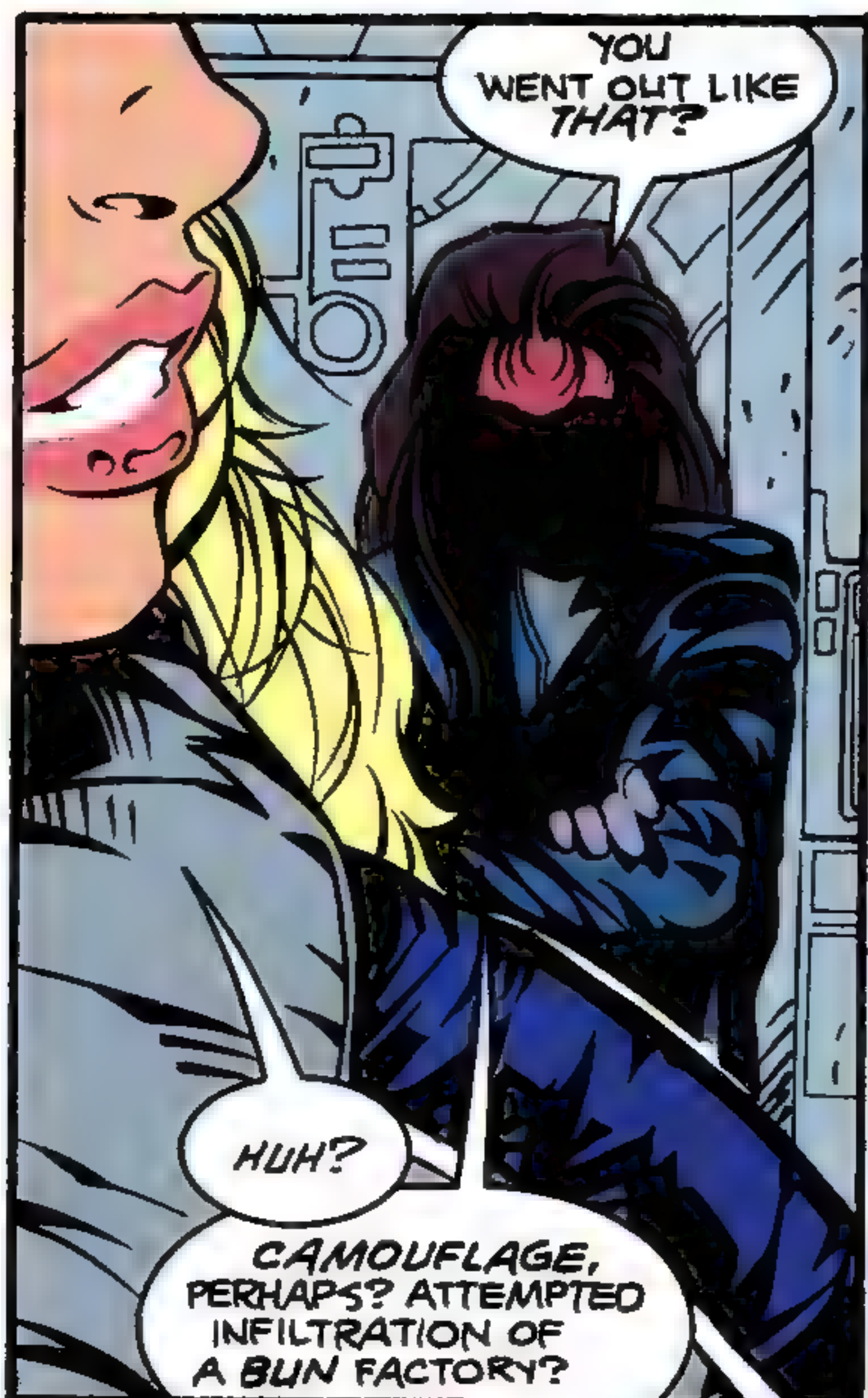


AND SOMEHOW I SENSE
THE CHAMBERS OPERATION
COULDN'T BE IN BETTER
HANDS.



GOOD OL' JACQUES SURE HAS
BLOSSOMED IN THIS CRISIS.

ANYWAY, BACK TO THIS
CELESTE GIG...



YOU
WENT OUT LIKE
THAT?

HUH?

CAMOUFLAGE,
PERHAPS? ATTEMPTED
INFILTRATION OF
A BUN FACTORY?



HAR-
HAR.

DO US ALL A
FAVOR. USE THIS
ALL THE TIME.



BOUNTY, I
TRAVELLED AT
ULTRA-SPEED.
NOBODY SAW
ME.

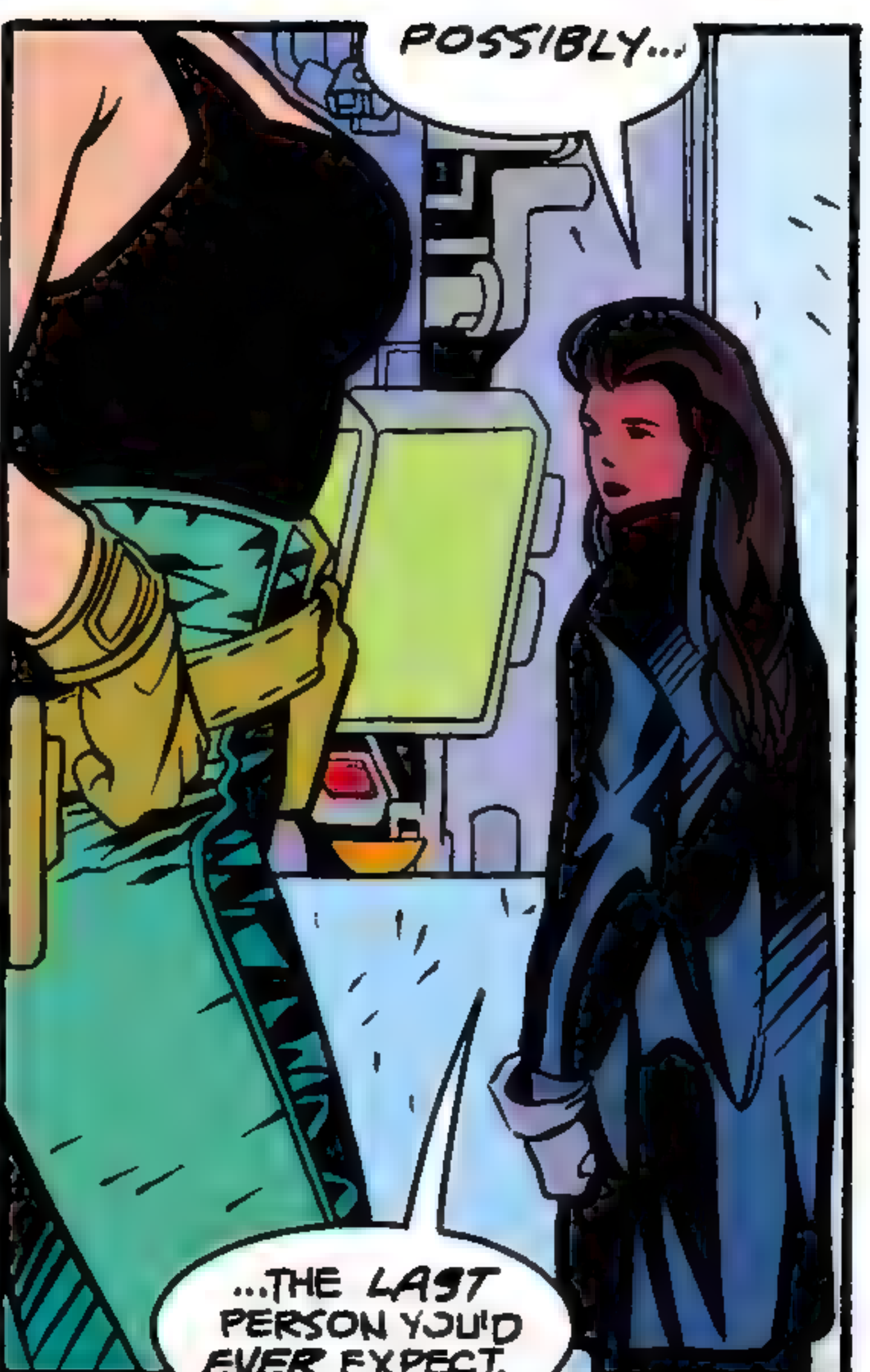
WELL,
YOU'RE GOING
TO SEE SOMEBODY
NOW. USE IT.



OKAY,
BETTER?

MUCH.

NOW...
WHO ARE
WE SUPPOSED TO
BE MEETING?



POSSIBLY...

...THE LAST
PERSON YOU'D
EVER EXPECT.



DAMN IT, DIRK, WHY
AREN'T YOU HERE?



I THOUGHT I COULD
MAKE IT ALONE.

I THOUGHT I
DIDN'T NEED
ANYBODY.



YEAH, THAT
WAS ME.

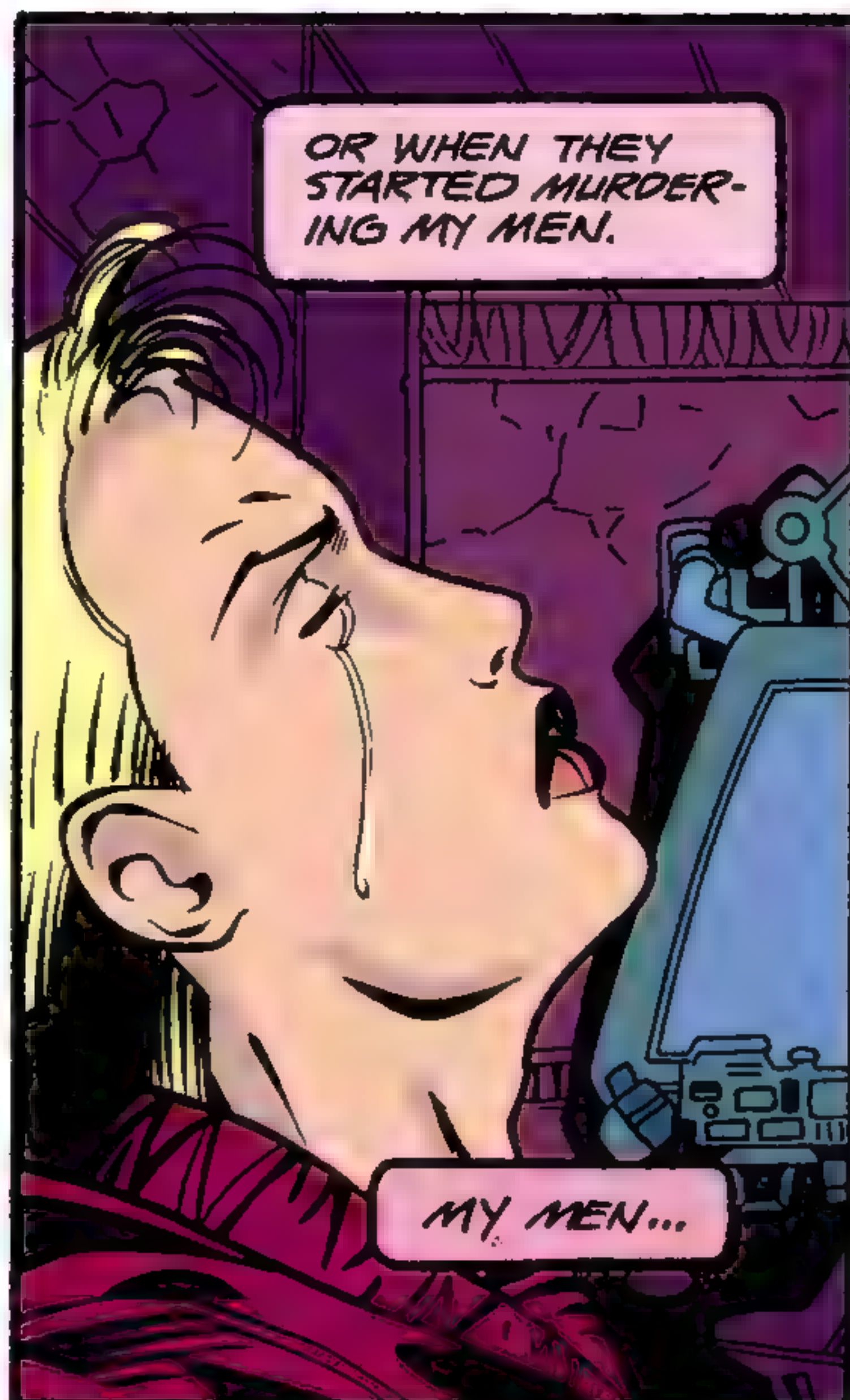
READY FOR ANYTHING.
PREPARED FOR EVERY
CONTINGENCY.



EXCEPT FOR HOW
I'D FEEL.



HOW I'D FEEL WHEN THOSE
LYING, MURDERING DISK-
HEADS STARTED BUTCHERING
MILLIONS OF INNOCENT
HUMANS.



OR WHEN THEY
STARTED MURDER-
ING MY MEN.

MY MEN...



OR WHEN I REALIZED
I LOVED EVERY ONE
OF THOSE GUYS.



AND...

AND ONE
MORE THAN
THE REST.



OH, MY
GOD!

AS ADVERTISED...

...THE LAST
PERSON YOU'D
EVER EXPECT...



NOT TRUST HIM?

...UHHH...

HOW CAN YOU... HOW CAN YOU NOT TRUST HIM? WHAT'S, Y'KNOW, NOT TO TRUST?



LISTEN, I KNOW YOU'VE GROWN SOMEWHAT ATTACHED TO HIM...

HIM? NO, I, UH...

BUT WE'VE ALL HEARD WHAT HE'S BEEN MUTTERING...

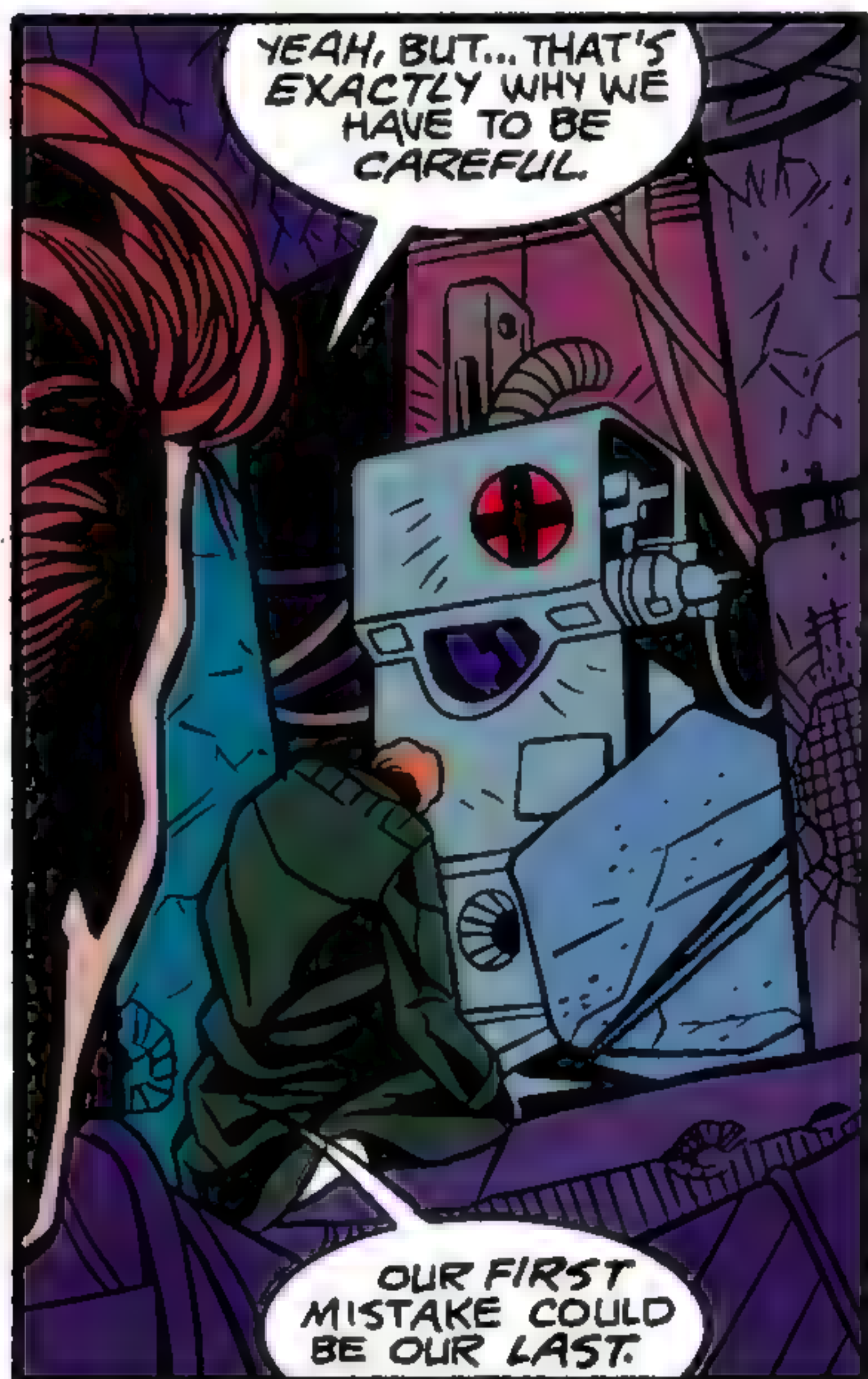


HE'S AFRAID OF EARTH-GOV, AFRAID OF THE SCIENCE POLICE.

HE'S APPARENTLY A FUGITIVE...

...HUHN...

WELL, DON'T LOOK NOW, BUT SO ARE WE.



YEAH, BUT... THAT'S EXACTLY WHY WE HAVE TO BE CAREFUL.

OUR FIRST MISTAKE COULD BE OUR LAST.



THEN THERE'S THE MATTER OF HIS WOUND.

WH-WHAT ABOUT IT?

THAT CRATER WAS FULL OF NULL RADIATION, NORMALLY HARMLESS.



BUT IT'S INSIDE HIS SYSTEM. IT'S DOING SOMETHING TO HIM.

CHANGING HIM -- IN A WAY WE CAN'T PREDICT.



YOU ALL, YOU MAKE IT SOUND LIKE HE'S THE ONE WH-WHO ATTACKED US.

NO, WE JUST HAVE TO BE CAREFUL.

WELL, I KNOW I CAN TRUST HIM.



HOW, UH, HOW YA DOING, DEVLIN?

F-FINE.

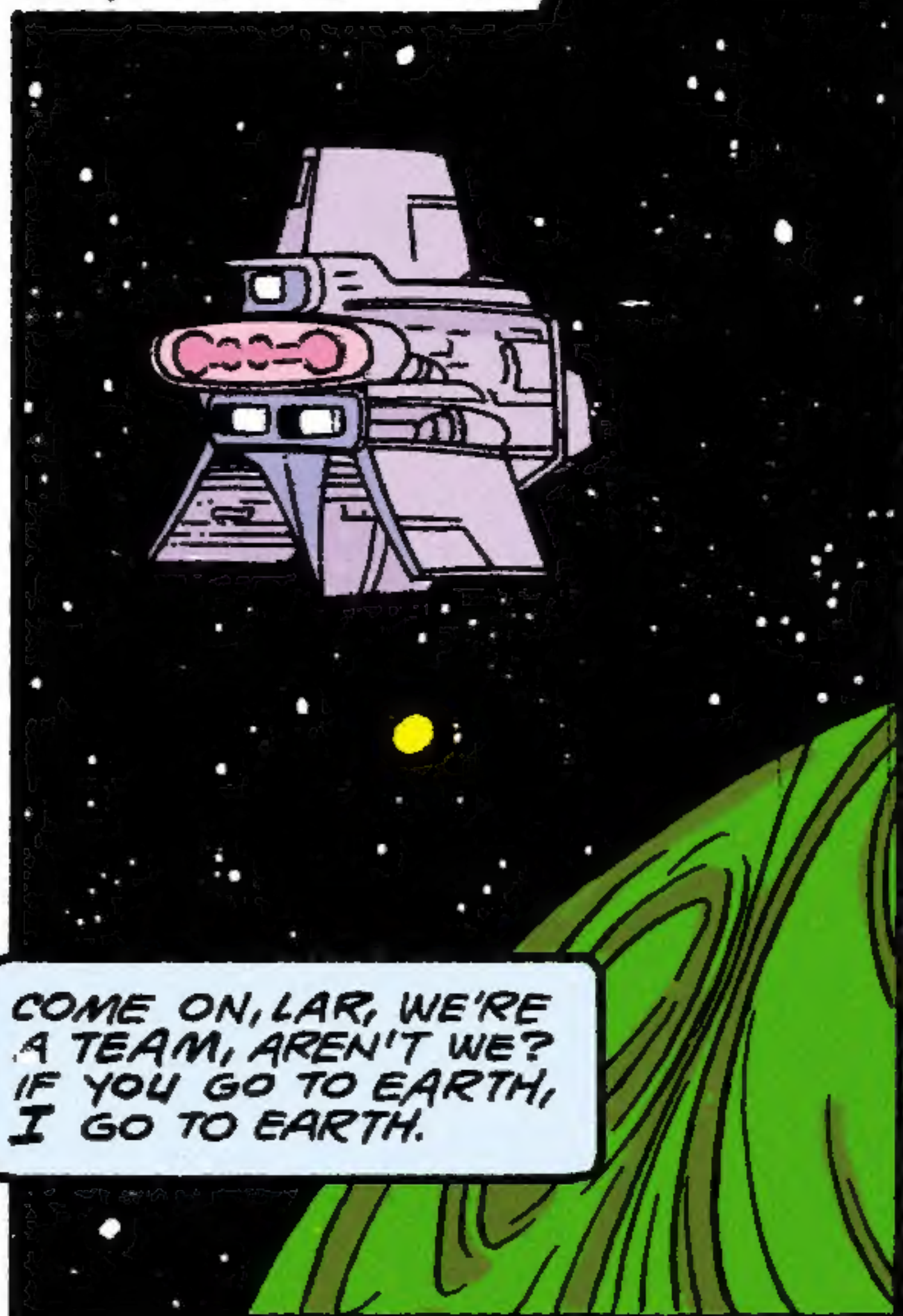
YOU DON'T UH, Y'KNOW, LOOK ALL THAT FINE.



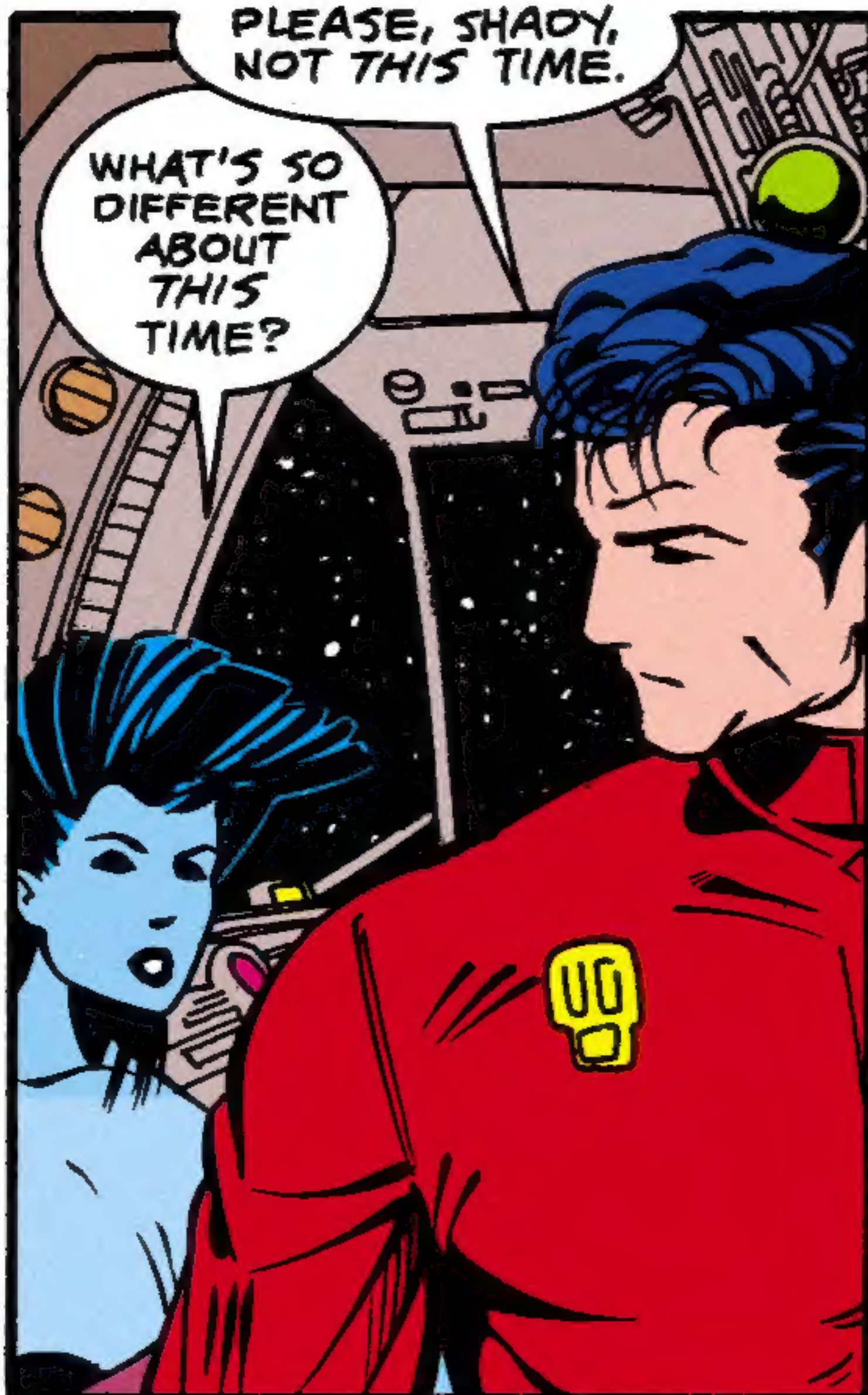
...OH, WELL, PERHAPS NOT, MISS. BUT COMPARED T'BEIN' HUNTED BY THE DISKHEADS...

...THIS'LL DO.

THE ALTAIR SECTOR...

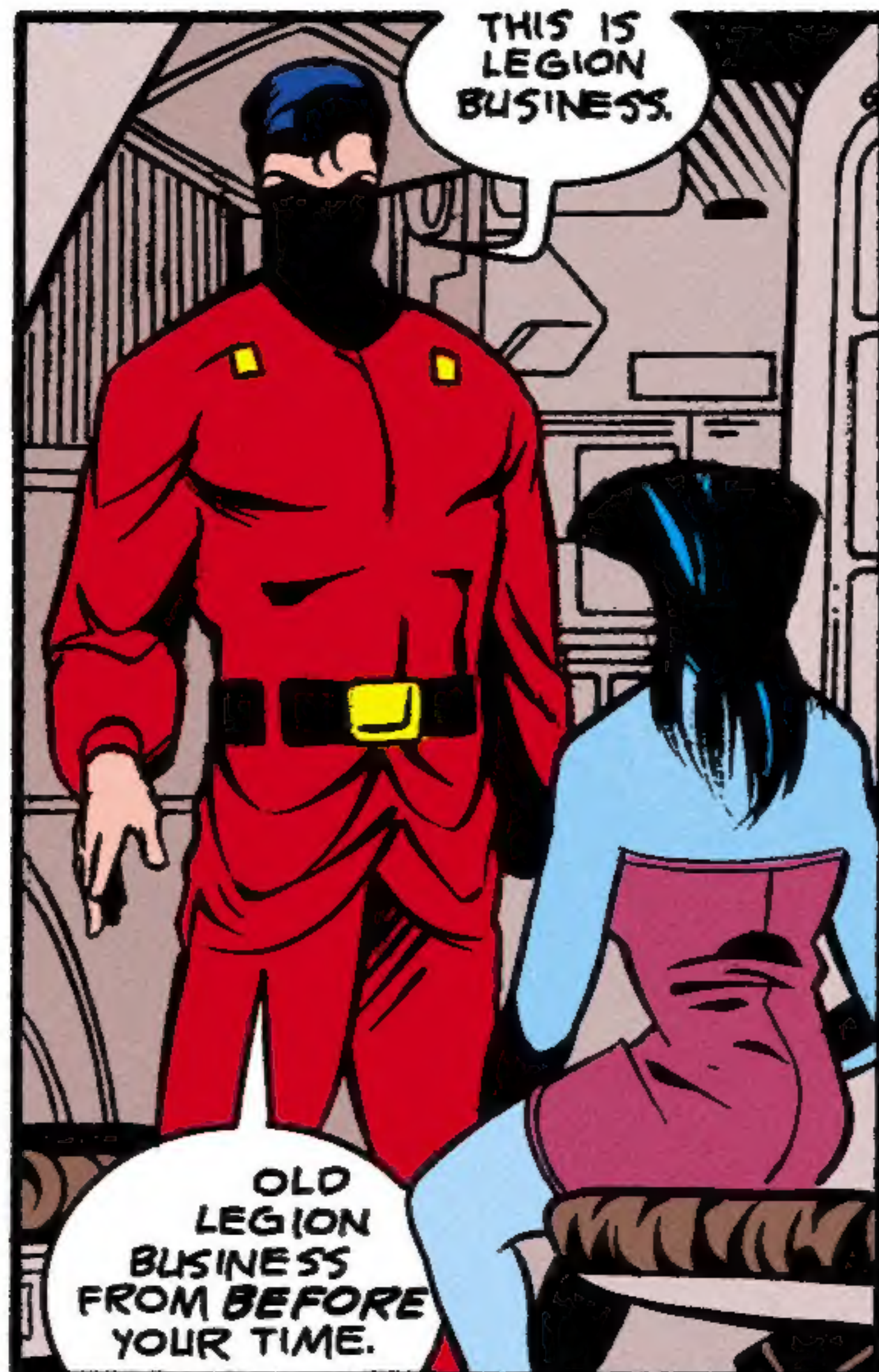


COME ON, LAR, WE'RE A TEAM, AREN'T WE? IF YOU GO TO EARTH, I GO TO EARTH.



PLEASE, SHADY, NOT THIS TIME.

WHAT'S SO DIFFERENT ABOUT THIS TIME?



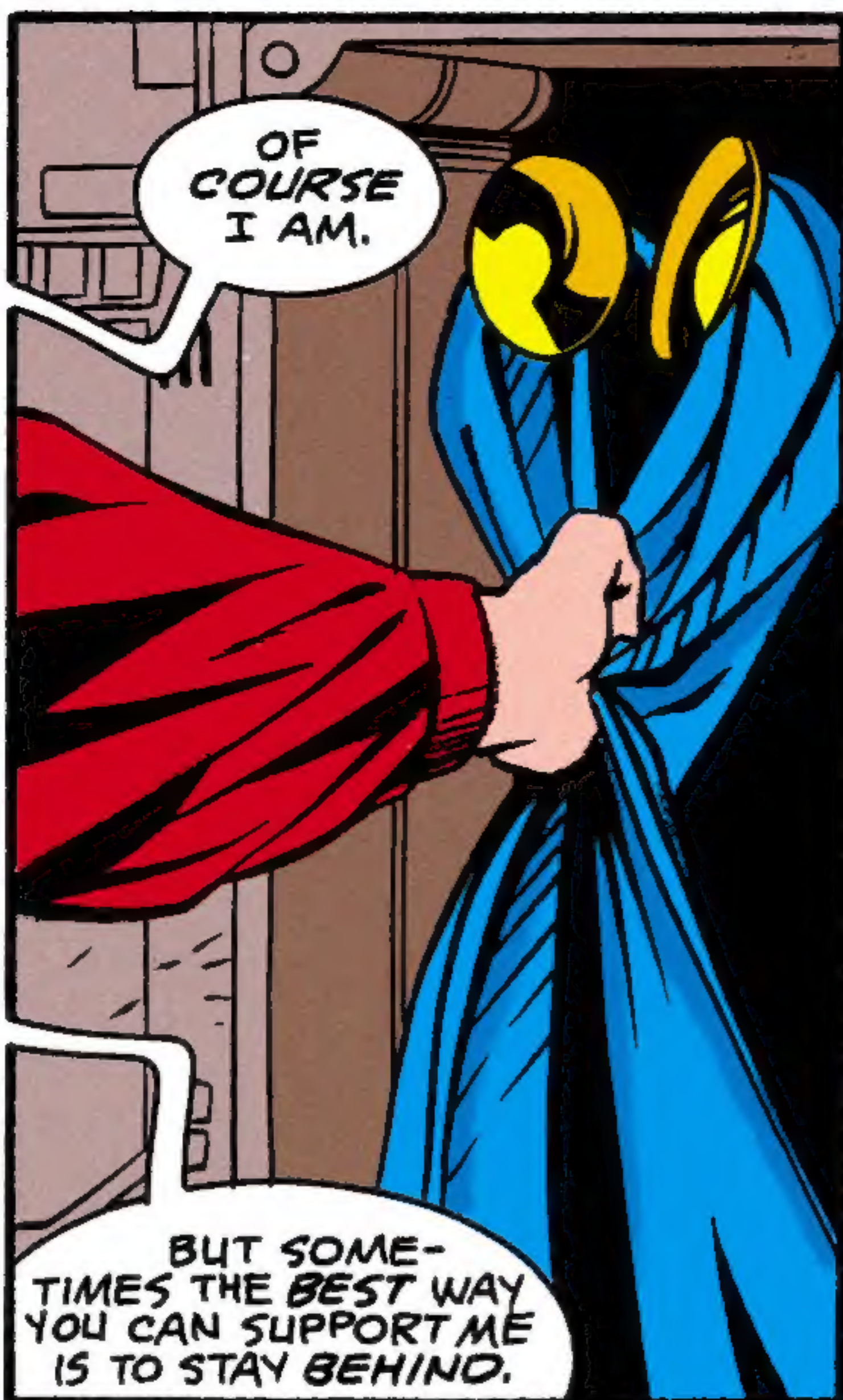
THIS IS LEGION BUSINESS.

OLD LEGION BUSINESS FROM BEFORE YOUR TIME.



LAR, THIS ISN'T RIGHT.

YOU KNOW YOU'RE STRONGER WITH ME THAN WITHOUT ME.



OF COURSE I AM.

BUT SOMETIMES THE BEST WAY YOU CAN SUPPORT ME IS TO STAY BEHIND.



PLEASE TRUST ME, SHADY. THIS IS ONE OF THOSE TIMES.

WELL, IF THAT'S WHAT YOU WANT...

IT REALLY IS.



THEN JUST BE CAREFUL.

I WILL.

AND HURRY BACK.



DAMN. I WISH I COULD FOOL HER.

SHE COULD TELL WHAT THE REAL REASON WAS.

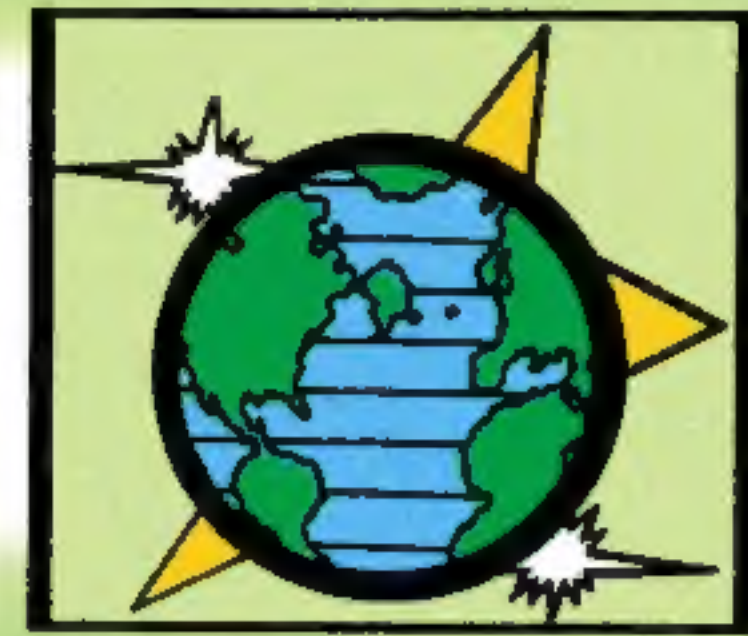
SHE COULD TELL HOW SCARED I AM.

KEITH GIFFEN
PLOT
JASON PEARSON
PENCILS
TOM & MARY BIERBAUM
DIALOGUE & PLOT ASSIST
MICHAEL CHRISTIAN
INKS
JOHN WORKMAN
LETTERER
TOM McCRAW
COLORIST
DAN RASPLER
EDITOR

Disaster Repercussion Study

Impact of Powersphere Detonations on Surrounding Areas

Department of the Environment, Earthgov



It is the goal of this report to outline the most potentially deleterious consequences of the powersphere detonations that occurred globally on 4/11/95. Given the extreme drain on Earthgov resources, it is recognized that only those measures that can be of the greatest quantifiable benefit to Earthgov can be considered.

Of primary concern are reports of metagenetic activity being sparked by the residual null radiation around the powersphere craters. The NR is generally regarded as non-threatening to humans, but massive exposure via unhealed wounds has upon occasion been rumored to have activated dormant "power gene" capacities. Reports have yet to be confirmed and there is no quantifiable security risk at this time.

The NR has also, in extremely isolated instances, radically affected known metagenetic subjects, such as the well-known tragedy of Dirk Morgna, where a runaway manifestation of his solar powers was apparently triggered by NR exposure. An Istanbul resident, Rhent Ustin, was reported to have grown a third set of optical receptors upon NR exposure. Again there is no confirmed security risk at this time.

A more quantifiable threat to Earthgov is the occurrence of illness events in the crater regions. Cholera, Typhus and Vesicant Fever are not uncommon in many of these areas, which is to be expected given the difficulty in locating and disposing of corporeal residua. Challenges are also being presented by widespread power outages that have preempted sanitation technologies, made location and transportation of sentient disease vectors difficult, and eliminated indoor climate control for occupants of these areas.

If these illness events were to reach epidemic mode, essential Earthgov workers could find themselves at risk of event participation. Conditions could also produce agents to which Dominion DNA is vulnerable.

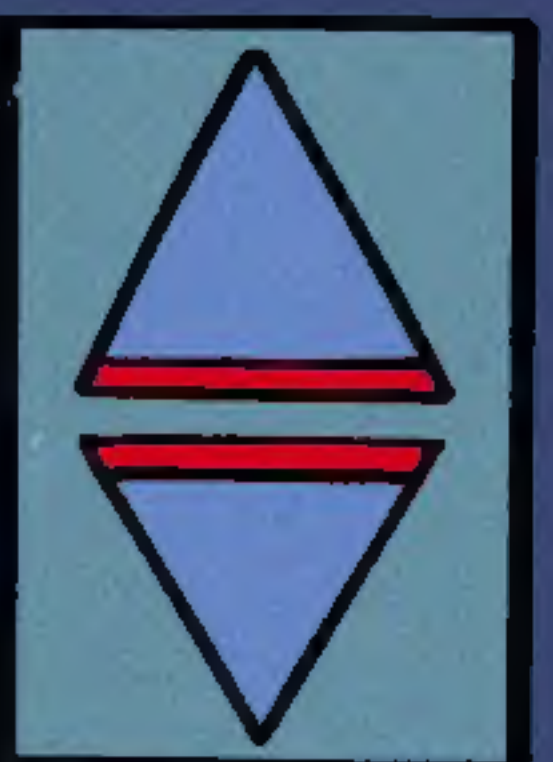
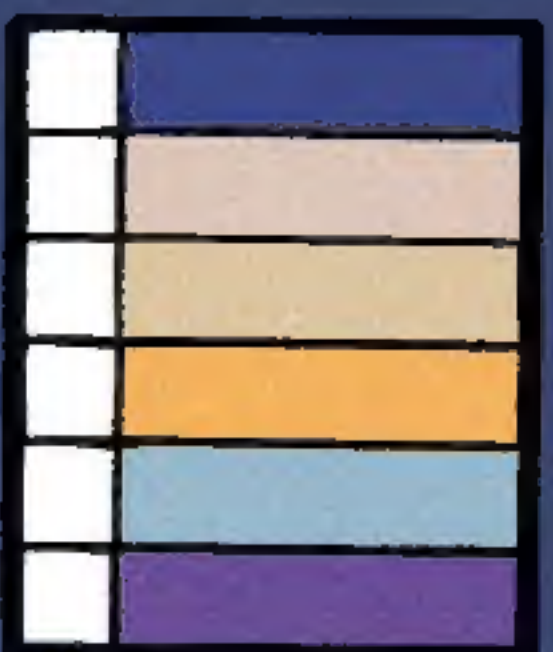
Additionally, the crater areas have become procreation points for undesirable vermin such as snow ticks, rats and bloodroaches, adding to the potential for the spread of undesirable events.

RECOMMENDATIONS

Within the severe restrictions on our resources, it is recommended (in order of priority) that:

- 1) Earthgov continue to closely study and monitor all subjects who may have experienced NR-induced metagenetic reactions. Detention is recommended in any instance in which potentially dangerous or useful metagenetic capacities manifest themselves.
- 2) Communications and transportation networks be reinstated in all crater areas to assist in the disposal of corporeal residua and the identification and elimination of other health-risk agents.
- 3) Creation of a quarantine mechanism for any instance in which a Dominator-threatening agent is identified. Essential Dominion and Earthgov officials should avoid the crater areas until sanitary mechanisms there can be significantly meliorated.
- 4) An intensification of the booster and inoculation program being administered to essential Dominion and Earthgov officials.
- 5) An augmentation of our field medical facilities to accomplish more efficient isolation of sentient disease vectors.
- 6) Acquisition of more sani-tech disposal systems to process the corporeal residua created by the powersphere detonations, government sanctions and spontaneous expirations.
- 7) The use of wide-dispersal anti-vector radiations that, while of some minor risk to native sentients, can be administered independent of public perception.

In conclusion, the environmental impact of the powersphere detonations creates certain challenges and potential dangers to Earthgov that can be minimized through the steps outlined herein.



SCIENCE POLICE

INTERNAL AFFAIRS DIVISION INVESTIGATION

THE MATTER OF THE ASSISTANT CHIEF'S HELMET: DOCUMENT TWO



SCIENCE POLICE LOG

FORM 22306: ARREST REPORT #K2B 7G9

DATE: 3/13/95, 1138 PM REPORTING OFFICER ROON DVRON

ARREST SUBJECT: SUSSA PAKA (A.K.A. SPIDER GIRL)

AGE: 34

CURRENT ADDRESS: UNKNOWN

CHARGE: BURGLARY, GRAND THEFT, RESISTING ARREST

ARTICLE STOLEN: STANCIO DAZZLE GEM

VALUE OF STOLEN ARTICLE: APPROXIMATELY 7.5 MILLION CREDITS

LOCATION OF CRIME: MUSEUM OF 1000 WORLDS, XANTHU

ACTING ON ANONYMOUS TIP, OFFICERS DVRON, TILLEY AND NANCO RESPONDED TO XANTHU'S MUSEUM OF 1000 WORLDS, LOCATED SUSPECT SUSSA PAKA IN GEMSTONE WING. OFFICERS INSTRUCTED PAKA TO SURRENDER, BUT SHE RESISTED, MAKING USE OF HER RAPID GROWTH-MANEUVERABLE HAIR TO ATTACK OFFICERS. OFFICERS WERE FORCED TO STUN HER INTO UNCONSCIOUSNESS. SINGLE SHOTS WERE FIRED BY OFFICERS DVRON AND TILLEY AFTER PAKA IGNORED MULTIPLE WARNINGS TO RELEASE OFFICER NANCO. SUSPECT WAS STRUCK IN ABDOMEN AND HIP AREAS.

MEDICAL EXAMINATION AT XANTHU MEDI-BASE 31-31, DR. HEIPLE ATTENDING, REVEALED NO SIGNIFICANT OR UNUSUAL INJURIES.

DESPITE QUICK RESPONSE BY OFFICERS, STANCIO DAZZLE GEM WAS FOUND TO HAVE BEEN STOLEN FROM ITS DISPLAY MODULE AND WAS NOT FOUND ON PAKA'S PERSON. WHEN REVIVED IN RESTRAINTS, PAKA DENIED THAT SHE HAD STOLEN IT, THOUGH ANONYMOUS TIP WARNED THAT SHE WAS AFTER THE GEM. PRELIMINARY CHECK OF MONITORS AND SENSORS' HOLOGRAPHIC RECREATIONS CONTAINED NO CLUE OF HOW GEM WAS SEIZED. PAKA'S CLOTHING APPARENTLY INCLUDES DEVICES ALLOWING HER TO CIRCUMVENT MONITOR AND SENSOR DEVICES; HOWEVER, CRIME LAB LOCATED PAKA'S GENETIC PATTERNS ON THE GEM'S DISPLAY MODULE.

UPON REGAINING CONSCIOUSNESS AT MEDI-BASE 31-31, PAKA CLAIMED RIVAL THIEF BENN PARES INSTIGATED ANONYMOUS TIP TO FRAME HER, THEN STOLE GEM AND ESCAPED MUSEUM WHILE OFFICERS WERE APPREHENDING PAKA. MONITORS AND RECREATIONS SHOW NO EVIDENCE TO SUPPORT PAKA'S CLAIMS OF AN ADDITIONAL THIEF, THOUGH FAILURE OF MUSEUM SECURITY SYSTEM TO PROVIDE EVIDENCE OF GEM'S ACTUAL SEIZURE RAISES QUESTIONS NOT YET ANSWERABLE.

PAKA BEING HELD IN STANDARD RESTRAINT DEVICES, PLUS CUSTOMIZED HEAD RESTRAINT TO PREVENT USE OF HER HAIR AS WEAPON. ARRAIGNMENT POSTPONED PENDING MORE COMPLETE INVESTIGATION OF CRIME SCENE AND POSSIBLE PARTICIPATION OF PARES.

UPON ADVICE OF N.A. NORTHCOTT, ATTORNEY, PAKA NOW REFUSES TO ANSWER OFFICER'S QUESTIONS OR ELABORATE ON EARLIER CLAIMS OF PARES' INVOLVEMENT. NORTHCOTT REQUESTS RELEASE OF PRISONER BASED ON FAILURE OF SECURITY SYSTEM TO PROVIDE INCONTROVERTIBLE PROOF PAKA TOOK GEM. REQUEST DENIED. NORTHCOTT ALSO REQUESTS REMOVAL OF CUSTOMIZED HEAD RESTRAINT ON GROUNDS IT HAS NOT RECEIVED COURT APPROVAL. REQUEST DENIED, BUT EXPEDITED COURT APPROVAL BEING SOUGHT.

PARES BEING SOUGHT FOR QUESTIONING BUT CURRENT WHEREABOUTS AND RESIDENCE UNKNOWN. EARLIER CONFIDENTIAL TIP INDICATED PARES AND PAKA WERE INVOLVED IN RIVALRY TO STEAL GEM. BOTH SUSPECTS MAY HAVE BEEN ROMANTICALLY LINKED AT ONE TIME.

SPIFFANY FAMILY NOTIFIED OF THEFT. REPRESENTATIVE THREATENS LAWSUIT OF 10 MILLION CREDITS AGAINST SCIENCE POLICE FOR FAILURE TO PREVENT THEFT OR LOCATE GEM, DESPITE TIP. WATCH COMMANDER HAS BEEN NOTIFIED.

DISPOSITION: PAKA REMAINS CHARGED AND IN CUSTODY WHILE INVESTIGATION CONTINUES.



From Baaldur, with love...

GLORITH

